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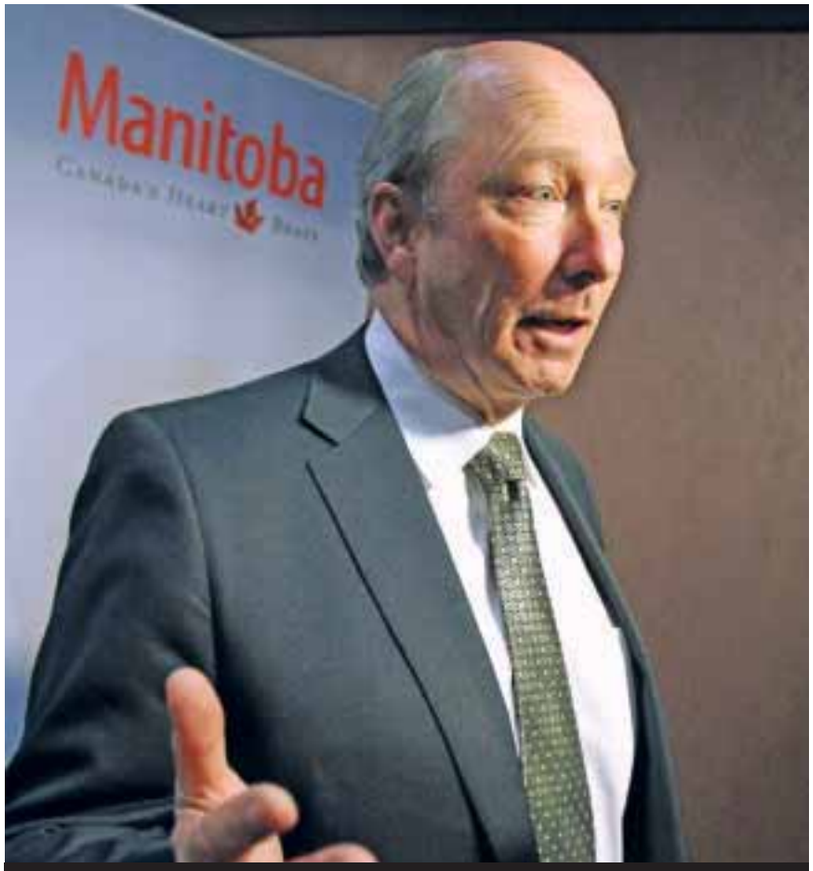

Colin Ferguson, president and chief executive officer of Travel Manitoba, talks to reporters after the Crown corporation revealed Manitoba's new tourism campaign and slogan. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

'Canada's Heart' begins to beat as 'Manitoba Time' comes to an end

Rebranding. Minister of tourism hopes new slogan, campaign will add $1B to province's coffers by 2020

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

It's no longer Manitoba time in Manitoba.

After serving as the province's tourism catchphrase for the last three years, "It's Manitoba Time" was officially turfed Thursday to make room for the Keystone Province's shiny new $2.4-million marketing campaign and slogan: "Manitoba: Canada's Heart Beats."

"We wanted something that was very aggressive and something that would really make the rest of the country stand up and take note," explained Colin Ferguson, president of Travel Manitoba. "This is designed to … encourage Manitobans to travel in their own province and encourage people to come to Manitoba from outside the province."

The Crown Corporation also released new television commercials Thursday scheduled to air across Canada when the campaign officially gets started next spring.

The commercials highlight everything from beluga whales and polar bears in Churchill to cultural events like the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and Ferguson said Tourism Manitoba also plans on exporting the ads to countries like Germany, the United Kingdom and France in the future.

"We're looking at opportunities in other markets around the world," he said.

The Manitoba tourism industry now brings in about $1.4 billion annually, seventh place among Canadian provinces in terms of tourism revenue.

Ron Lemieux, Manitoba's minister of tourism, culture, heritage, sport and consumer protection, hopes the rebranding will position the province among the country's heavy hitters in the tourism industry and see Manitoba add another $1 billion to its annual tourism coffers by 2020.

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NEWS 1

Sprinkler damages health centre supplies, food, clothes

Siloam Mission. Damage to supplies has been estimated at $10K-$15K, not including food

CLARA BUELOW
and ZACH PETERS
winnipeg@metronews.ca

About 400 people were forced out into the cold Thursday morning after a frozen sprinkler in Siloam Mission's Saul Sair Health Centre burst around 9 a.m.

Executive director Floyd Perras said when firefighters arrived, they found water had leaked down from the medical supply room and into the basement where food and clothes are stored, damaging between 20 and 50 crates.

"As far as the supplies in the health centre, (there is) maybe $10,000–$15,000 (in damage) said Perras. "Food maybe $5,000–$10,000. With the repairs to the place, not sure what that will be," he said.

By Thursday afternoon, the basement, the medical supply room, and the hallway of the mission were lined with fans set on high to dry the remaining water.

Perras said they don't know the cause of the burst sprinkler, although they believe something was left open in the air handling unit, letting cold air in and causing two to three sprinklers to freeze and crack.

During the evacuation, staff opened up the mission's temporary location at 303 Stanley, right behind the Princess Street building. After about 45 minutes, people were able go back to the main building.

Perras said while other parts of the mission remain open, the health clinic and clothing room are closed indefinitely.

How to help

Donations for Siloam Mission can be dropped off at 300 Princess St., or sent online through siloam.ca or by phone at 204-956-4344.

Floyd Perras, executive director of Siloam Mission, stands among crates of damaged food in the basement of the mission. CLARA BUELOW/FOR METRO

Making the case for 3 new mega-facilities

Kent Patterson and Sara McArthur of the YMCA-YWCA. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

There's room in the 2014 budget for private and public facilities, a representative of the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg told the city's most powerful committee.

Kent Patterson, president and CEO of the Winnipeg Y, along with board vice-chair Sara McArthur, were two of nearly 40 people to address members of the executive policy committee during a special meeting on Thursday.

Patterson urged council to keep a $1.75-million grant earmarked in the budget for their plan to build three new mega-facilities over the next 11 years.

The funding for the Y has come under fire by councillors and supporters of the Sherbrook Pool, who would like the pool's repair to take priority over projects like the Y's, which has yet to break ground.

"I can't speak to how the city chooses to deal with the Sherbrook Pool, what I can say is that we have an existing facility which is within a mile of the Sherbrook Pool," Patterson told media at city hall.

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The statue of Taras Shevchenko sits on the Manitoba Legislature grounds. ZACH PETERS/METRO

Celebration set for Ukrainian poet

200th. Ukrainian Manitobans set to celebrate milestone birthday of poet Taras Shevchenko

ZACH PETERS
winnipeg@metronews.ca

City council decided Wednesday they will commemorate the 200th birthday of Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko next year.

Coun. Paula Havixbeck raised the idea, which calls for the city's public service to identify a significant event that will mark Shevchenko's birthday and give support to Ukrainians living in Winnipeg.

Shevchenko has been honoured in Winnipeg before. In 1961 a statue of Shevchenko was erected on the Manitoba Legislative grounds to mark the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian community in Canada.

"We put up the first statue of Shevchenko in the western world," said Dr. Roman Yerekiuk, the acting faculty director for the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba. "There was no other statue of him in Canada, the U.S., Australia or Western Europe."

Canada was also the first country to recognize Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and is now home to more than 1.2 million Ukrainians — who make up four per cent of Canada's population.

March 9 marks Shevchenko's birthday.

Ukrainian protests

Solidarity

At the same time birthday celebrations are being planned, the Ukrainian community held demonstrations last week at the statue of Shevchenko that sits on the legislative grounds. The demonstrations were held in solidarity with protests in Ukraine, in response to the Ukrainian government's failure to sign an agreement to join the European Union (EU). "They want Ukraine to be ... a more democratic country that would be in union with the West," said Dr. Roman Yerekiuk.

Premier: Flood relief, new highway work looming

Premier Greg Selinger says relief for flood evacuees, as well as new highway work are on the horizon.

In his annual state of the province speech, Selinger told a business luncheon the province is working to find new homes for residents of the Lake St. Martin First Nation.

Many residents have been in hotel rooms since 2011, when their community was flooded.

Selinger says the province has identified new land and has an agreement in principle with the federal government that could be finalized soon.

Selinger also announced $110 million in improvements to the Trans-Canada Highway between Winnipeg and the Ontario boundary.

The stretch of road will also be renamed for Terry Fox, who embarked on a historic cross-Canada run in 1980 for cancer research.

A map of the work to be done on the Trans-Canada Highway. CONTRIBUTED

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Animal services. Agency holding dog adoption sale

This weekend Jangle, Riley and Nala are three of 36 homeless dogs up for adoption at Animal Services' Adopt-a-Dog sale.

The dogs are all unlicensed strays hoping to find a new home in time for the holiday season.

Dogs will be on sale for $99, which includes a licence, spay/neuter, shots and microchip, along with food and pet health insurance.

The sale runs from Dec. 13 to the 16 at the Animal Services Agency, located at 1057 Logan Ave.

In Winnipeg, all dogs over the age of six months must wear a licence.

The cost of a regular dog licence is $64 and must be renewed annually.

These licences helped 311 return 927 dogs to their owners in 2012.

Jangle is up for adoption at Animal Services Agency in Winnipeg. COURTESY OF ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY

METRO

Immigration debate

NDP should answer questions on staged event: Gerrard

A Liberal member of the legislature says Premier Greg Selinger must answer questions about whether one of his cabinet ministers was untruthful about an immigration debate.

Jon Gerrard says former immigration minister Christine Melnick misled the legislature last year by saying she was not behind an attempt to pack the legislature's public gallery.

A report Wednesday from the ombudsman says Melnick was behind the plan to invite immigrants, support workers and others to the gallery for a debate that criticized the federal government's immigration changes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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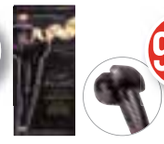

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Curl up with your favourite sport

With hockey ice back in at the MTS Centre and Ron Burgundy's suit and charm no longer in town, the Roar of the Rings enthusiasm has started to fade. Here are five ways to cure your curling withdrawal.

ZACH PETERS/FOR METRO
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Buy the 'stack of pancakes' licence plate for your car

CurlManitoba and Manitoba Public Insurance released a new specialty licence plate for curling fans last week. Too bad the cartoon curling stone looks more like a stack of pancakes than a curling rock. Let me go get the maple syrup.

Sign up for The Manitoba Open

Formerly known as the MCA Bonspiel, The Manitoba Open, is now open to all curlers regardless of gender and age, for the first time in its 125-year history. So find three friends, or just random people, and register for the January bonspiel. Don't forget that phone at ice level is a direct line to beer; does it get any better than that?

Don your best curling sweater and play some shuffleboard

Shuffleboards are staples at most local legions and recreational centres. So get on your curling sweater, bring your game face, and get to shuffling. If you find you're a natural, join the Manitoba Shuffleboard Association — yes it exists! I know, your dreams just came true.

Watch Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Ron Burgundy got more attention from fans at the MTS Centre than any of the curlers did during the opening draw of the Roar of the Rings, so go and see his film. It comes out on Dec. 18. "Oh my, oh my." We hear Mr. Burgundy plays the main character, and that he doesn't talk about curling at all. Oh well ...

Watch more curling!

The next Jeff Stoughtons and Jennifer Joneses take to the ice in the Manitoba Canola men's and women's junior championships starting on Boxing Day in Portage la Prairie. Get their autographs now before they make it big and are off to the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics before we, or they, know it.

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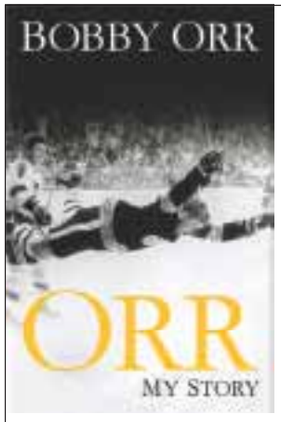

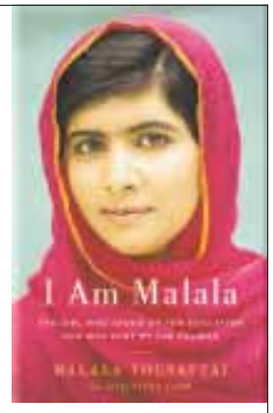

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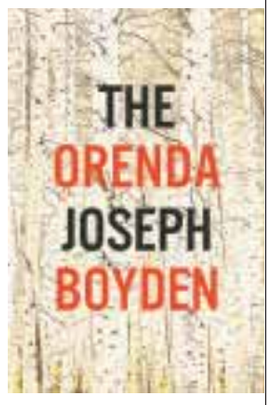

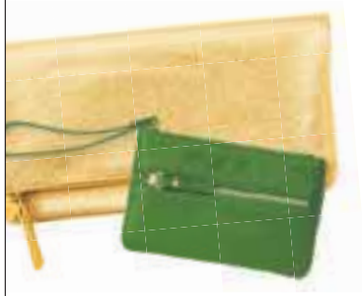

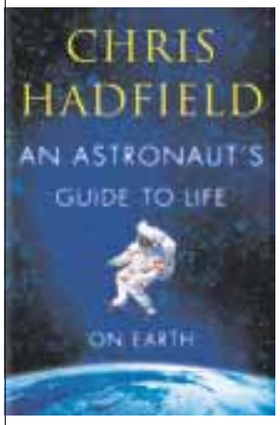

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Rob Ford. Reporter serves mayor libel notice

Mayor Rob Ford was slapped with a libel notice late Thursday for televised comments he made about a reporter, who said the remarks amounted to an accusation of pedophilia.

Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale would not comment on his suit that also names Vision TV, which aired the Ford interview, saying an article he wrote for his newspaper would have to stand.

"Enough is enough. I can't tolerate it. I won't tolerate it," Dale wrote.

"I'm asking Ford to immediately retract the false insinuation that I am a pedophile. I am also serving Vision TV, which twice broadcast Ford's vile and defamatory remarks ... even though their interview was filmed days before it aired."

The notice also calls for Vision TV to apologize.

Ford said a day after the interview that he stood by "every word."

He left city hall Thursday evening without saying anything. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said at a news conference on Tuesday that he stands by "every word" he said during a televised interview in which he appeared to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kim Jong-un's uncle executed by N. Korea

Pyongyang. News report calls him 'a traitor to the nation' and 'worse than a dog'

North Korea on Friday announced the execution of Kim Jong-un's uncle, calling the leader's former mentor a traitor who tried to overthrow the state.

The announcement came only days after Pyongyang announced through state media that Jang Song Thaek — long considered the country's No. 2 power — had been removed from all his posts because of allegations of corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and leading a "dissolute and depraved life."

The state news agency KCNA said a tribunal examined Jang's crimes, including "attempting to overthrow the state by all sorts of intrigues and despicable methods with a wild ambition to grab the supreme power of our party and state."

Jang was seen as helping Kim Jong-un consolidate power after the death of his father, Kim Jong-il, two years ago. Jang was the latest and most significant in a series of personnel reshuffles that Kim has conducted in an apparent effort to bolster his power.

Some analysts see the purge as a sign of Kim Jong-un's growing confidence, but there has also been fear in Seoul that the removal of such an important part of the North's government — seen by outsiders as the leading supporter of Chinese-style economic reforms — could create dangerous instability or lead to a miscalculation or attack on the South.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People watch a TV news program at Seoul Railway Station, South Korea, on Monday showing Jang Song Thaek being grabbed at a meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang the day before. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diefenbaker sired 2 boys?

Brothers' quest to uncover their roots.
Labyrinthine tale of adoptions, broken and reconstituted families

Twice-married former prime minister John Diefenbaker — always believed to have been childless — may have fathered not one but two sons, leaving progeny scattered across the country, The Canadian Press has learned.

About 10 years ago, three Goertzen siblings began searching for their biological father, Ed Thorne, who had split from their mom four decades earlier.

Stan Goertzen, 52, found Thorne in Kamloops, B.C. He made a startling discovery — that Thorne, who died soon after, had been adopted and renamed. His name at birth was John Eric LaMarche, and his mother was Diefenbaker's housekeeper Mary Rosa LaMarche.

Enter George Dryden, 45, who grew up in a Toronto family of privilege only to discover a few years ago that the man who raised him was not his father.

That revelation prompted Dryden to go on a well publicized quest to confirm longtime family whispers: that he was the product of an affair between his mother, Mary Lou Dryden, and Diefenbaker, a known confidante.

The youngest Goertzen brother, Lawrence, who had doubts about whether Thorne really was his biological father, contacted George Dryden and they both sent body samples to a DNA lab, together with Stan Goertzen. The result this month stunned them. "We're talking about 99.99 per cent probability that they are related," said Kyle Tsui at Toronto-based Accu-Metrics, which did the tests.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adopted son

Search for boy turns up another 'Dief' link

A locket belonging to Mary Rosa LaMarche shows a photograph of her baby, Ed Thorne, and herself.
CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ruthann Malmgren, now of Rockyford, Alta., had also been looking for Ed Thorne on behalf of her mother, Mary Rosa LaMarche, who years earlier had given him up for adoption.

LaMarche had been Diefenbaker's housekeeper in Prince Albert, Sask., in the late 1930s, Malmgren said.

At the time, Diefenbaker was having marital difficulties, according to a biography of his first wife. His eye apparently rested on his housekeeper.

In 1938, LaMarche fell pregnant and was promptly sent to Bethany Home in Saskatoon. Little John was born in February 1939. His birth certificate did not list a father.

Malmgren, 70, remembers her dad would say the baby was Diefenbaker's. He would be angry his wife wore a locket with photos of herself and the infant.

The baby, John Eric LaMarche, was adopted and renamed Edward Thorne.

Malmgren tracked Thorne down to Kamloops and, through him, connected with Stan Goertzen around 2003. She told him his biological father, Ed Thorne, was Diefenbaker's son. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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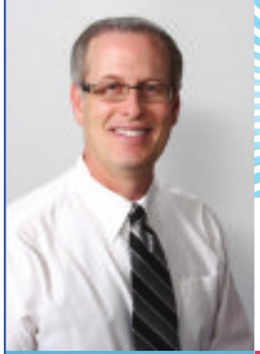

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Sticky fingers. Queen not amused by cops gobbling guests' nuts, court hears

The Queen reportedly went a little nuts after palace cops ate nuts laid out for guests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A private investigator convicted of eavesdropping on the voice mails of royal staff told a tabloid editor that the Queen was annoyed because police officers ate the nuts laid out for Buckingham Palace guests.

The tidbit was passed on by Clive Goodman to Andy Coulson, then editor of the now-defunct News of the World.

Goodman's 2005 email notes: "Memo (has) now gone around to all palace cops telling them to keep their sticky fingers out."

The email was used as evidence at the phone-hacking trial of Coulson, former editor Rebekah Brooks and five others. All deny guilt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have the munchies? Doritos' got you covered

Food innovation lab. On the heels of the popular Doritos Locos Tacos prepare for chip-topped chicken wings and Mountain Dew sauces

If PepsiCo has its way you'll be licking more of that red, sticky dust from your fingers as it builds on the success of Doritos Locos Tacos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/TACO BELL

Dorito dust may be the new salt for more restaurant chains.

PepsiCo Inc., which owns Cheetos, Fritos, Tostitos and other snacks, found success last year after teaming up with Taco Bell to create Dorito-flavoured taco shells. And it has since been dreaming up other restaurant dishes featuring its popular snacks.

The company announced Thursday that it struck a deal to serve its drinks at Buffalo Wild Wings, picking a significant client from beverage rival Coca-Cola Co. Notably, PepsiCo also said it would work with the sports-centric chain to create "unique menu offerings."

In an interview, Buffalo Wild Wings CEO Sally Smith said that she visited PepsiCo's food innovation lab in New York and was shown several dishes the chain might put on its menu. Ideas included Doritos as a crunchy topping for wings or tenders, or even just offering potato chips as a side dish.

Additionally, Smith said she was shown salad dressings and sandwich and chicken wing sauces that incorporate PepsiCo's sodas, including Mountain Dew. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So crazy, it worked

Over at Taco Bell, Doritos Locos Tacos continue to be a considerable sales driver.

- Taco Bell CEO Greg Creed has noted that a major advantage of the tacos is that competitors can't replicate them — their success is largely tied to the popularity of the Doritos brand.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 93.98¢ (-0.42¢)

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Natural gas: $4.37 US (+$0.03)
Dow Jones: 15,739.43 (-104.10)

TimmyMe app

Two years after Starbucks, Tim's tries tap-and-pay

A limited number of Tim Hortons stores are now letting you pay for a double-double with your smartphone.

Participating outlets in Canada and the U.S. will allow users with some BlackBerry 10 devices, iPhones and Google Android smartphones to pay with a TimmyMe app. The BlackBerry app uses near field communication technology and works similarly to the tap-to-pay method used with some debit and credit cards. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Asian cockroaches.** A new species has been discovered in the Big Apple. Recently identified by scientists as Periplaneta japonica, a genus native to Japan, the insect is known in China and Korea for its ability to survive in cold climates. New Yorkers remain unfazed by news of another living creature trying to survive and breed in their city.

2 **Grounded.** Last Friday, Tom Wagner fell asleep on a flight to Houston. He was overlooked by staff and awoke to find himself trapped in the dark aircraft. He called his girlfriend and she notified the airline, who eventually rescued him. Counter-terrorism agencies expressed concern over the news but airport security assured them that Wagner had nothing in his shoes and did not have a bottle of water.

3 **Mama knows.** Mothers' favourite gift this year is the FiLIP smartwatch. A colourful wristwatch doubling as a phone with voice and GPS so parents can keep track of their kids at all times. American women are currently lobbying for this same technology to be used in wedding rings.

4 **Everything I (Think I) Am.** Kanye West is the world's greatest artist. Just ask him. He appeared at his Texas concert wearing a mask and someone shouted, "Take it off." After having security eject the paid-ticket holder, Kanye cleared up any possibility of mistaken identity by declaring his full name. "I'm Kanye-motha-f–in-West!" he said. And no one's arguing that.

5 **Grass is greener.** Hashtag "cannabis" has been trending on Twitter, and not just because weed-smokers repeatedly tweeted while forgetting they had. Ganja is making news because public appeal for legalization is growing, while staunch opposers recycle archaic myths of reefer madness as they guzzle their spirit of choice. "It's a gateway drug," they say. Yes, the gateway to procrastination and poor gastronomical decisions. And last I checked, neither one of those is criminal.

6 **Heading south.** U.S. private equity firm Bain Capital has managed to overtake one of our country's great national treasures: Canada Goose. Current president Dani Reiss says that the corporation intends to maintain the high standards for outerwear that his family worked hard to create, and that they will continue to be made in Canada. Oh good, so we still won't be able to afford them.

7 **Hallelujah.** Time magazine's Person of the Year goes to Pope Francis! The people's pontiff was chosen for refocusing the church away from condemnation and back to basics like mercy, compassion and maybe even smoking weed.

8 **This week in music.** On Dec. 12, 1957, rock 'n' roll icon Jerry Lee Lewis, who was still married to his first wife, secretly wed his 13-year-old second cousin Myra Gale Brown. This "degenerate trifecta" raised interesting public debate about which was more disturbing: the bigamy, the incest, or the statutory rape. Now, that's what I call some Great Balls of Fire.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Burglary — it's monkey business

CYRIL RUOSO/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT NEWS

Baboons raid apartment for food

These baboons show they really are cheeky monkeys by breaking into an apartment, stealing food and parading their loot, including a giant teddy bear. Around 10 chacma baboons clambered into the third-floor flat in Cape Town, South Africa, and wreaked havoc, after one of their accomplices managed to get the window open. METRO

Photog says

"I am quite used to working with monkeys but I was amazed. When they came out with a giant teddy bear, I was even more astonished."

Cyril Ruoso, wildlife photographer, 43, from France

Loss of habitat leads to urban raid

Due to loss of natural habitat, baboons on the Cape Peninsula are adapting to human environment, entering urban areas in search of food.

"The intimidation that the big males employ has become physical and my young son no longer feels safe in the house," says Pierrer de Villiers, who lives in the town of Scarborough on the peninsula. METRO

A baboon escapes with a teddy bear. SOLENT NEWS

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
irene.kuan@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

The festive season is in full swing, which means there is an overwhelming amount of holiday indulgence and selfie-snapping. Here are some apps that can help you look flawless, albeit not so natural, in photos.

Facetune:

For $2.99, this photo-editing app for iPhone and iPad is the perfect tool to help you achieve a professional-looking, polished photo. Options include a function to smooth the appearance of wrinkles. Smooth not enough? There's a "smoother" option, too.

Pixtr:

Use this free app to instantly perfect your photos. Pixtr can automatically correct face symmetry and remove blemishes and wrinkles. It can work with solo images, as well as group shots, personalizing results for each subject.

Beauty Camera:

This free photo-editing app for Android is designed to make you look beautiful. Say there's no good light in the room for a photo — no worries! Beauty Camera can instantly change the lighting and tonal details in the photo. You can also compare the effects with the original photo.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A Vancouver bus driver isn't allowed to wear a Santa suit because it's against uniform policy. Should he be allowed?

@TrentRedekop: will it help him pick us up on time?

@EthanDR: "He might not be identifiable as the transit operator" ... umm he's the one driving the bus #IDENTIFIED!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

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Synopsis

Picking up where An Unexpected Journey left off, Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and Gandalf (Ian McKellen) join with Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) and his army of 12 dwarves. Their goal is to traverse Mirkwood, Esgaroth and Dale to locate the fire-breathing dragon Smaug who hoards the wealth of the Lonely Mountain. On the way they battle giant spiders, make a deal with Bard the bowman (Luke Evans), the descendant of the original Lord of Dale, and some helpful and not-so-helpful elves (including a good lookin' and deadly She-Elf played by Evangeline Lilly).

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●○○○

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug is more of an Unexpected Journey — only one that doesn't really go anywhere. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

This Hobbit is hobbling

The Desolation of Smaug. J.R.R. Tolkien fans will surely geek out on the latest installment but one of the Reel Guys couldn't care less about the film

Richard: Mark, despite the sense of mild confusion I felt as I tried to piece the story together, I really enjoyed The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. It took a lot of backstory to get to the fifth film based on Middle-earth and its inhabitants and it will help if you know your Shire from your Sauron or your Skin Changers.

But having said that, Peter Jackson has crafted a great action adventure with the same consistency of tone, style and spirit that runs through the LOTR and Hobbit movies. They feel like story shards chipped off the same block.

Mark: Richard, there are two kinds of people in this world — those who admire and enjoy the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, and those who are repelled by his neo-medieval, Druidic nonsense.

You can guess which camp I fall into. I sat through the Rings trilogy under great duress, and skipped the first Hobbit entirely. So the only question was how much I would loathe this picture. The good news is: not that much. True, the entire movie and everyone in it needs a haircut, but the set pieces worked, especially the barrel escape down the river and the entire dragon sequence. But the movie felt so long I could have flown to Tokyo for dinner and gotten back in time for the end credits.

RC: I think fans will find the length just about right… non-fans, maybe not so much. This one worked for me. There's a Richard Attenborough old school epicness about it. It is about good and evil without troubling nuance or anti-heroes.

Perhaps because Englishman Tolkien penned these action adventure stories during the Second World War when evil was clear-cut, his books are ripe with allegory but straightforward in their approach to morality and good vs. evil.

MB: A good point, but maybe it's precisely that serious, hectoring tone that always turned me off. Evangeline Lilly, on the other hand, did not turn me off — quite the opposite.

She really holds the screen even if her ears need cosmetic surgery. But the ending — a cliffhanging cheat, if you ask me — elicited a collective groan from the audience and made the experience feel incomplete. Did you like the dark look of the picture?

RC: I did like the look. It's darker in tone than the Hobbit books for sure, but I thought it suited Peter Jackson's take on the story. I also liked the Walking Dead style battle scenes — lots of arrows in heads.

MB: I kept hoping for someone to show up with a gun and put them all out of my misery.

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Lots of talent, but little gold to go around

Golden Globes noms. It's a crowded field and the Hollywood Foreign Press doesn't seem to know what funny is

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Zoe Saldana, Aziz Ansari and Olivia Wilde have a laugh before announcing the noms for the Golden Globes on Thursday in California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Awards season is officially here, thanks to the announcements of the Golden Globe nominations, and the best word to describe this year's crop is crowded. So crowded, in fact, that some heavy hitters have been almost left out.

Steve McQueen's 12 Years a Slave is still considered the lead favourite, with nominations for the film itself, director McQueen, stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o, screenwriter John Ridley and composer Hans Zimmer.

But with such a crowded year it's easy for votes to get split. At least McQueen doesn't have to worry about David O. Russell's nomination-heavy American Hustle until the Oscars, as the Hollywood Foreign Press (HFPA) have placed it in the musical or comedy category (see sidebar).

Though it earned several nominations earlier in the week from the Screen Actors Guild, Lee Daniels' the Butler didn't garner a mention — not even for Oprah Winfrey, despite the HFPA's starstruck reputation. And while Martin Scorsese's Wolf of Wall Street nabbed nominations for the film and star Leonardo DiCaprio, it didn't make the cut in any other major category. Sorry, Scorsese.

Ejiofor, Idris Elba and Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be pulling double duty come the night of the awards, with nominations in both the film and television categories. And ceremony co-host Amy Poehler might have to take a break to make an acceptance speech, as she's up for her work on Parks and Recreation.

But what's most noteworthy about the television nominations is what and who didn't get nominated. The HFPA obviously didn't respond to the most recent season of Mad Men, as the series didn't score a single nod. Neither did HBO's Game of Thrones or Showtime's Homeland. And while Downton Abbey earned a nomination for the series itself, none of the cast — not even Maggie Smith — warranted a mention.

The Golden Globes will be awarded during a televised ceremony Jan. 12, four days before the Academy Awards nominations are announced.

That's not funny!

The HFPA is earning more than the usual amount of criticism this year for its musical or comedy film categories not really honouring musicals or comedy. Some of the films filling the top category — best picture musical or comedy (American Hustle, Her, Inside Llewyn Davis, Nebraska and The Wolf of Wall Street) shouldn't really be considered comedies, critics are arguing. Producers have been criticized in the past for positioning serious fare in the comedy category to increase a film's chances.

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Nominations

- **Best Motion Picture Drama.** 12 Years a Slave; Captain Phillips; Gravity; Philomena; Rush
- **Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** American Hustle; Her; Inside Llewyn Davis; Nebraska; The Wolf of Wall Street
- **Best Director.** Alfonso Cuaron - Gravity; Paul Greengrass - Captain Phillips; Steve McQueen - 12 Years a Slave; Alexander Payne - Nebraska; David O. Russell - American Hustle
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Drama.** Chiwetel Ejiofor - 12 Years a Slave; Idris Elba - Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom; Tom Hanks - Captain Phillips; Matthew McConaughey - Dallas Buyers Club; Robert Redford - All is Lost
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Christian Bale - American Hustle; Bruce Dern - Nebraska; Leonardo DiCaprio, - the Wolf of Wall Street; Oscar Isaac - Inside Llewyn Davis; Joaquin Phoenix - Her
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Drama.** Cate Blanchett - Blue Jasmine; Sandra Bullock - Gravity; Judi Dench - Philomena; Emma Thompson - Saving Mr. Banks; Kate Winslet - Labor Day
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Amy Adams - American Hustle; Julie Delpy - Before Midnight; Greta Gerwig - Frances Ha; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Enough Said; Meryl Streep - August: Osage County
- **Best Drama Series.** Breaking Bad; Downtown Abbey; the Good Wife; House of Cards; Masters of Sex
- **Best Comedy Series.** The Big Bang Theory; Brooklyn Nine-Nine; Girls; Modern Family; Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Drama Series.** Bryan Cranston - Breaking Bad; Lieve Schreiber - Ray Donovan; Michael Sheen - Masters of Sex; Kevin Spacey - House of Cards; James Spader - The Blacklist
- **Best Actress in a TV Drama Series.** Julianna Margulies - the Good Wife; Tatiana Maslany - Orphan Black; Taylor Schilling - Orange is the New Black; Kerry Washington - Scandal; Robin Wright - House of Cards
- **Best Actress in a TV Comedy Series.** Zooey Deschanel - New Girl; Lena Dunham - Girls; Edie Falco - Nurse Jackie; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Veep; Amy Poehler - Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Comedy Series.** Jason Bateman - Arrested Development; Don Cheadle - House of Lies; Michael J. Fox - The Michael J. Fox Show; Jim Parsons - The Big Bang Theory

Taylor Schilling received a nom for her role in Orange is the New Black. CONTRIBUTED

Great Odin's Raven! Burgundy is back

Anchorman 2. Will Ferrell swore he'd never make a sequel ... OK maybe just one

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

Anchorman 2 brings its style, class and fine taste in scotch to theatres next Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

There's a stack of magazines sitting on the coffee table of Will Ferrell's suite at Toronto's Carlton-Ritz and as we settle down to chat in the plush chairs, the glossy one on top grabs his attention. He picks it up and flourishes his hand across its cover — a picture of a panda munching on a bamboo shoot.

"How apropos that there's a panda on the cover of this magazine, which was the big story in the first Anchorman. The panda story," he reminisces. "It's too bad they're almost extinct now. But let's not talk about that."

Indeed. Time is of the essence and Ferrell's got a few more upbeat things to wax about — like Anchorman 2 and his whirlwind promotion tour. Prior to touching down in Toronto earlier this month, he'd pulled a few Ron Burgundy stunts — co-anchoring a local newscast in Bismarck, N.D., and co-hosting the Roar of the Rings curling tournament in Winnipeg. But it's all a labour of love for Ferrell, who together with his co-writer Adam McKay, once swore they'd never do sequels — a claim with an asterisk for one special movie. "We would always have this sidebar conversation where it was 'well, if we ever were to do a sequel one day, it would probably be Anchorman,'" he says.

The original Anchorman reached almost cult-like status when it came out on DVD nearly 10 years ago. For a time, its jokes were fodder for every armchair comic. "People just started falling in love with this movie on a different level after repeat viewings," says Ferrell.

In Anchorman 2, Ron Burgundy and his reunited crew (Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, David Koechner) face a new decade – the '80s – with new challenges: a 24-hour cable news channel and – gasp — a female African American boss. In terms of joke density, Anchorman 2 packs in as many as the first and even more cameos. Kanye West, Will Smith, Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, Liam Neeson and Harrison Ford are just a fraction of the big names in the film.

"That's the love people have for Anchorman. We kept hearing from people and had them reaching out to us."

Ferrell says they even set their sights on Brad Pitt, who he wanted to play Ron Burgundy's pretty boy nemesis — anchor Jack Lime — but when Pitt declined, Ferrell and McKay brought in James Marsden. "We just did an informal read-through of the script to see how jokes were playing and Marsden read that part and we were like 'he's the guy,'" he says.

Ferrell adds the filmmaking felt more like a reunion party. "Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental and it was like, 'wow, we're actually going to do this again.'"

"It's cliché sounding but I don't know if I've worked more closely with any cast, the way we get along and how we have this shared sense of letting each other be funny all at the same time and there's no real competition. That's rare."

Quoted

"Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental."

Will Ferrell on the crew reprising their newscasting roles in Anchorman 2

Anchorman app

Scotchy, scotch scotch

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Anchorman 2: Scotchy Scotch Toss
iPhone/iPad/Android
$0.99
Are you "uh-mazing" or do you have "the motor skills of a very stupid baby"? Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) will judge in this pointless, scotch-flavoured game about tossing ice cubes.

How I Won The War. Lesser-known Lennon film had eerie premonitions

On Dec. 8, 1980, John Lennon was gunned down by deranged fan Mark David Chapman. Lennon, like the Beatles, has been examined every which way, even idolized in a manner that can sand over his rougher edges.

Still, some of his output gets ignored, including much of his solo work; his by-many-accounts unlistenable art records with Yoko Ono; the couple's avant-garde films; and his books, packed silly with aggressive wordplay.

And then there's his acting. We don't mean A Hard Day's Night and Help! (Both are classics, although there's an argument to be made that Help! is even better. It's goofier and its absurd sense of humour, while owing more to director Richard Lester and writer Charles Wood than the Beatles, anticipates the likes of Monty Python.) We mean the only film in which he didn't play himself (or "himself").

That would be How I Won the War, made in 1967. A dense, kaleidoscopic and bracing satire, it was once again made by the team of Lester and Wood. Lester was a poppy stylist who married fast-paced imagery — he was called "the grandfather of the music video," which prompted him to half-jokingly ask for a blood test — to a bemused and skeptical world view. Wood was, like Lennon, an incorrigible wordsmith.

Lennon was a supporting player in How I Won the War. CONTRIBUTED

Despite dominating its advertisements, Lennon is only a supporting player in How I Won the War. The lead is played by Michael Crawford, the future Phantom of the Opera, who at that point was a go-to bumbling, stammering, pratfalling manchild.

The film was based on a satirical novel by Patrick Ryan, but Lester and Wood went further into absurdism. Here, Crawford's obliviously proper lieutenant takes his troops, who all hate him, to North Africa on a mission to set up a cricket pitch.

The plot is beyond loose, there to buttress a frankly exhausting stream of gags and Brechtian devices. Actors, among them Lennon's Gripweed, address the camera. The antics of the token clownish soldier (Jack MacGowran) — who, as it's gradually revealed, is actually totally insane — sometimes get fitted with a laugh track, decades before Oliver Stone did the same thing in Natural Born Killers.

MATT PRIGGE/MWN

Chilling scene

- The final battle in How I Won the War features a moment even more chilling than its makers could have imagined. Lennon's character is fatally wounded. He drops to the ground and, still alive and lucid, stares into the camera and says: "I knew this would happen. You knew it would happen, didn't you?"

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In support of Siloam Mission
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Emma Thompson on the cusp of crotchety

Saving Mr. Banks.
Actress puts an interesting twist on a character that could have fallen to stereotype

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Emma Thompson plays the curmudgeonly P.L. Travers in Saving Mr. Banks, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Just before our chat with Saving Mr. Banks star Emma Thompson, the British actress had wowed a press conference audience with a rather athletic entrance, vaulting herself over the dais — legs lifting high over the table — to get to her seat. The display was a far cry from P.L. Travers, her terse on-screen alter ego in Banks. But then there's a lot Thompson and Travers don't have in common.

I wanted to commend you on a fantastic entrance to the press conference.
Essentially what you have to understand is that spiritually I always carry a bladder on a stick and wear a cap and bells. I must, I think, in a past life been some sort of court jester. Because I seem to make it my aim in life to get a laugh. Any way you can.

And may I say, you're quite limber. I don't know that I could've managed that.
You can always go down and have a go later.

I found it a bit distracting in this film that you're far too young for the part.
Well, I'm not far too young. I'm 54 and she was 66 at the time. I also think I look very old — suitably and properly old. Travers herself liked to divide a woman's life into three main parts: nymph, mother and crone. So I said, "Why don't we just play her on that cusp between mother and crone?" There's still a kind of Eros, an erotic possibility for her, but you can see that it's never going to happen because she's too closed up. I think that's more interesting because you can see the possibility there, and you're not playing a crotchety old lady — who is rather more easy, because of the way that our world works, to dismiss.

What are your thoughts on that simplified trio of life stages?
I kind of like it. I think it's interesting, you know, with the seven ages of man being another format, if you like, for thinking about the stages of our lives. And I personally think everything is always happening at once, if you see what I mean. I think that we carry it with us all the time, so you don't necessarily leave anything behind. It's all coming with you.

You've mentioned a problem with trying to find heroic historical female characters to look to. How do we fix that?
There are many things you can do. There's two questions: What is heroism? Is it action? Does it have to be action-based? As I started to [work] in cinema I realized that I would identify with Marlon Brando because he was the one getting to do things and that women seemed to be the ones saying, "No, don't do that brave thing, stay here with me," I started to get very frustrated with that. And I remain frustrated with that because it's still a very common trope. I turned down role after role after role in my 30s which were the wife going, "No please! Why don't you think of us? Think of the children!" That sort of milksop, marshmallow-y stuff that wasn't even allowed to be inhabited in any real way. But the problem with female heroism is not one that's very easy to answer because if the actions are going to be the same as the male hero, then what do you do? You stick a gun in their hands. What's the point of that? It's the same old, same old. It's a real conundrum.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 13 TO THURS., DEC. 19 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Cinema City McGillivray 2190 McGillivray Blvd.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Wed-Thu 4:30-7:20-10 Wed-Thu 7-9:40
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 4:40-7:35-10:30 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:35-10:30 Mon-Tue 4:40-7:35-10:30 Wed 4:10-10:30 Thu 4:40-7:35-10:30
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri 3:30-6:45-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:25-6:45-9:55 Mon 3:30-9:55 Tue 3:30-6:45-9:55
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:10 Mon-Wed 4:25-7:25-10:10 Thu 4-8-10:10
Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 12
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 4:35-7:05-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:25-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:05-9:35
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (14A) Fri 4:40-8:20 Sat-Sun 1-4:40-8:20 Mon-Thu 4:40-8:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (14A) Fri 6:30-7:10-10:10-10:50 Sat-Sun 2:45-3:30-6:30-7:10-10:10-10:50 Mon 6:30-7:10-10:10-10:40 Tue 6:30-7:10-10:10-10:50 Wed-Thu 6:30-10:10 Fri 3:30-7-10:30 Sat-Sun 12-3:30-7-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-7-10:30
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 4-7:10-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:45-4-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 4-7:10-10:20 Fri 6-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:15-6-9:30 Mon-Tue 6-9:30 Wed-Thu 8
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sat-Sun 12:25
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 5:30-8-10:35 Sat-Sun 3-5:30-8-10:35 Mon-Wed 5:30-8-10:30 Thu 5:30-10:30

Cinema City Northgate 1399 McPhillips Street

About Time (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:15
Carrie (14A) Fri 7:40-10 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:50-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:35
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Sat-Sun 1:40
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:45-7:55
Despicable Me 2 (G) Sat-Sun 1:25
Despicable Me 2 3D (G) Fri 6:55-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:45
Ender's Game (PG) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:20
Escape Plan (14A) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30
Free Birds (G) Sat-Sun 2:05-4:45 Mon-Thu 5:40
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:40
When the Love Is Gone (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:05

Cinematheque 304-100 Arthur

Going: Remembering Winnipeg Movie Theatres (STC) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 2
The Human Scale (G) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Thu

City Cinema - Northgate 1399 McPhillips

About Time (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:15
Carrie (14A) Fri 7:40-10 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:50-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:35
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Sat-Sun 1:40
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:45-7:55
Despicable Me 2 3D (G) Fri 6:55-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:45
Ender's Game (PG) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:20
Escape Plan (14A) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30
Free Birds (G) Sat-Sun 2:05-4:45 Mon-Thu 5:40
Free Birds 3D (G) Fri-Sun 7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:40
When the Love Is Gone (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:05

Famous Players Kildonan Place, 1555 Regent Ave W,

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Wed-Thu 5:50-8:40
Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 7:40-10:15 Sat-Sun 4:15-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (14A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:20-8 Mon-Thu 5-8:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (14A) Fri 6:30-10:15 Sat-Sun 3-6:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:30-9
Homefront (18A) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:45
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-9:40 Mon-Tue 5:50-8:40

Grant Park 8 Cinemas 1120 Grant Ave.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) , Wed-Thu 4-7-10
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 3:45-6:55-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:45-6:55-9:50 Mon-Tue 3:45-6:55-9:50
Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 3:40-9:35
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 12:55-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (14A) , Fri 3:30-7:15 , Sat-Sun 12:25-3:30-7:15 , Mon-Thu 3:30-7:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (14A) , Fri 4-6:30-8-10 , Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:30-8-10 , Mon-Thu 4-6:30-8-10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:25-6:50-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:25-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:50-9:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 4:05-7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:05-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:10-9:45
Philomena (14A) Fri 3:55-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:55-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:55-7-9:40

Landmark Globe Cinema 393 Portage Ave.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-9:40 Mon 6:50-9:40 Tue 6:50-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:40
All Is Lost (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-7-9:30 Mon 7-9:30 Tue 7-9:30 Wed 7-9:30 Thu 7 Oldboy (18A) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-7:10-9:45 Mon 7:10-9:45 Tue 7:10-9:45 Wed 7:10-9:45 Thu 9:30
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Thu 7:10-9:50

Landmark Towne Cinema 8 301 Notre Dame Avenue

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Wed-Thu 7:15-9:45
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:15-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40
Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 3:45
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (14A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:40-8 Mon-Thu 8
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (14A) Fri 6:40-10 Sat 12-3:20-6:40-10 Sun 12-3:20-7 Mon-Thu 7
Homefront (18A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 7-10:10 Sat 12:30-3:50-7-10:10 Sun 12:30-3:50-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (18A) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7:15-9:40 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:40
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sat-Sun 3:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street

American Hustle (14A) Thu 7-10:15
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Wed-Thu 1:10-2:10-4:05-5:05-7-8-9:55-10:55
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Sat 3:55-7-10:05 Sun 12:50-3:55-7-10:30 Mon-Tue 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:10
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:05-6:55-9:35 Wed 4:05-9:35 Thu 1:20-4:05
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Frozen (G) Fri 12:55-4 Sat 11:20-12:55-4 Sun 12:55-4 Mon-Thu 12:55-3:40
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 11:45-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:25 Sat 11:05-11:45-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:25 Sun 11:45-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2-4:40-7:20-10:05
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:35-8:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (14A) Fri 1:30-2:15-5:10-5:50-8:45-9:30 Sat 12:30-2:15-5:10-5:50-8:45-9:30 Sun-Thu 1:30-2:15-5:10-5:50-8:45-9:30 Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 Mon 3-6:40-10:10 Tue 3-6:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 3-6:40-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Mon 12-3:30-7:10-10:40 Tue 12-3:30-7:10-10:45 Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:40
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
Homefront (18A) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Thu 1:45-4:15
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 6:50-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:40-10
Fri-Sun 12:40-4:10-7:30-10:45 Mon-Tue 12:45-4-7:25-10:40 Wed 4:15-7:25-10:40 Thu 12:45-4-7:25-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Last Vegas (PG) Fri 2-4:40-7:20-10 Sat 10:55-2-4:40-7:20-10 Sun 3:55-10 Mon 12:40-3:15-9:40 Tue 1:40-4:20-7:9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 11:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:35-10:25
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (PG) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Thu 7-10:05
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 4:30-7:25-10:20 Sat 11:10-4:30-7:25-10:20 Sun-Thu 4:30-7:25-10:20
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 7

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Wed 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Thu 1:15-4:05-8-10:30
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:40-5:10-8 Sun 12:25-2:50-5:30-8 Mon 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:55 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-8
Frozen (G) Fri 11:25-1:10-3:50-6:50 Sat 11:25-2-3:50-6:50 Sun 1:10-3:50-6:50 Mon 1:10-3:50-8 Tue-Wed 1:10-3:50-6:50 Thu 3:50-6:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sun 2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sun 12:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:40-8:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-5:20-9 Sun 11:30-1:45-5:20-9 Mon-Thu 1:45-5:20-9 Fri-Sat 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 Sun-Thu 3-6:40-10:20 Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:40
Homefront (18A) Fri-Tue 10:35
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-4:05-7:30-10:45 Thu 4:10-7:30-10:45 Fri-Sun 9:35 Mon 9:55 Tue-Thu 9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 11:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 2-4:50-7:40-10:40 Sat 4:50-7:40-10:40 Sun 2-4:50-7:40-10:40 Mon 2-4:50-10:40 Tue-Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:40
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1:30 Sat 1:50 Sun-Thu 1:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 4:25-7:20-10:05 Sat 4:30-7:20-10:05 Sun-Wed 4:25-7:20-10:05 Thu 4:25-10:45

Did anyone order Kevin a plain cheese?

Home Alone star. Macaulay Culkin forms Velvet Underground cover band, names it Pizza Underground, sings about the 'za

Macaulay Culkin. GETTY IMAGES

Whenever you see that Macaulay Culkin is trending on a search engine or your social media feed, it's a little scary.

What with gossip columnists constantly quoting sources who are apparently close to the Home Alone star, saying that he's got a massive drug problem and is going to die any day now. Though, we should point out that what we're about to report doesn't really dispel any notion of a massive drug problem, but at least he appears to be using these drugs productively: to form a Velvet Underground cover band and sing about pizza.

His latest project, which is so awesomely absurd that we'd love it even if it didn't involve him, is called the Pizza Underground, and they dress like the Velvet Underground, and they play songs that sound a lot like existent Velvet Underground songs (as well as Lou Reed songs and a Nico song thrown in for good measure), but with all of the words changed so that the songs are all about pizza.

Pizza is sung to the chorus melody of Sweet Jane, Papa John Says is sung to the tune of Stephanie Says and I'm Beginning to Eat the Slice, is (pretty awesomely, obviously) sung to the tune of I'm Beginning to See the Light.

Lou Reed would definitely be proud.

PAT HEALY/MWN

Who listens to the radio?

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Here are three more examples of stuff you'll never, ever hear played over the airwaves

I'm Not a Young Man Anymore – The Velvet Underground

It was only performed live once and never turned up on any bootlegs. From the 45th anniversary reissue of White Light/White Heat. One needs to hear it to believe it.

Sweet Child O' Mine – Some three year-old kid

You'll be blown away by this kid playing along to Gun N' Roses. To be that coordinated and musical at age three is almost alien.

Krampus Carol – Craterface

Given that the song is based on a mythical Satan-like creature who punished naughty children at Christmastime, this isn't your grandma's Christmas carol.

TAKE OUT TURKEY
DECEMBER 25th
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Paul Walker

Crash investigation could take 90 days

Funeral services will be held this weekend for Paul Walker, but the cause of the Nov. 30 car crash that claimed the lives of the Fast and Furious star and his friend, Roger Rodas, could remain a mystery for up to 90 days as authorities investigate, according to the Hollywood Reporter. A police spokesman says that any reports at this point about what caused the Porsche Carrera GT Rodas was driving to strike a light pole, two trees and a street sign are purely speculative. A coroner's report has already ruled the deaths to be accidental.

KFed reproduces ...again

Kevin Federline

Kevin Federline is going to be a dad again. The former back-up dancer and husband to Britney Spears is expecting his second child with wife Victoria Prince, which will make six kids total for Federline, according to E! News. Federline is also the father to Spears' two sons, Jayden James and Sean Preston, as well as a son and daughter with ex-girlfriend Shar Jackson.

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And the award for most badass name goes to Randolph Mantooth.

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If Justin Bieber just tweeted 'fart' would it break the internet?

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This is that loving time of year where you really want to be around the people who didn't screw you over.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Barron Hilton beating

Paris-Lindsay smackdown still has legs

It looks like Lindsay Lohan might not be in the clear just yet for the alleged beating of Barron Hilton in Miami last week, as the hotel heir — and younger brother to Paris Hilton — had his lawyer reach out to Miami Beach police to discuss their investigation, according to Radar Online.

"A meeting is being scheduled for Mr. Hilton to give a formal statement about the incident," a police spokesman says. Hilton reportedly wants Lohan's friend Ray LeMoine charged for the attack, but he'd initially backed off. "He has been made aware that there are incriminating photos that, if released, could tell a very different side of what took place," a source says. While Lohan hasn't currently been implicated in the incident, sources say Hilton believes she ordered LeMoine to beat him up.

Madonna. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Madge splits with (much) younger beau

Madonna has split up with boyfriend Brahim Zaibat after three years of dating, the singer's rep confirms to Us Weekly. "It ran its course," a source says. "They were dancing and working together all the time, and then they barely saw each other." Madonna first started dating the then-25-year-old dancer in 2010 before hiring him on as a backup dancer for her 2012 world tour.

Idina Menzel and Taye Diggs

Taye and Idina will now pay twice the Rent

Taye Diggs and Idina Menzel are splitting up after nearly 11 years of marriage, according to People magazine. The actors, who first met in the original Broadway cast of Rent in 1995, "have jointly decided to separate at this time," their rep says. "Their primary focus and concern is for their son. We ask that you respect their privacy at this time."

Liquid Assets

Whites that like variety

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Peter Rockwell
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As sure as Rudolph was a reindeer, you're going to feel some level of stress over the holidays — possibly when choosing a wine to match with your family feast.

Since Charles was a little Dickens, turkey has been the headliner. Unfortunately, the bird never travels alone. It's always surrounded by sweet and savoury sides that can throw a curve ball at even the most accommodating wine match.

If you're a white wine fan, think sparkling. A fresh bubbly is the great equalizer, pairing with just about everything (even if you decide on red meat or seafood this Xmas).

The classic turkey-meets-stuffing-meets-cranberry scenario that will play out on most tables is a lover of full-bodied chardonnay. Try one with a touch of oaky goodness from Australia, Chile, Canada or California.

Whites with a hint of residual sugar like savoury and sweet. The balanced, juicy fruit of Moselland's 2012 Ars Vitis Riesling ($9.95 - $16.99) is a guaranteed crowd pleaser that looks as good as it tastes.

Next week: My red picks. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fancy doesn't have to mean complicated

Spinach-stuffed Chicken Thighs. This dish makes it possible to dazzle guests without much effort

1. In skillet over medium heat, wilt spinach until reduced. Let cool until easily handled, then squeeze moisture from spinach. Finely chop. You should have about 1/3 cup. Set aside.

2. Using paring knife, remove skin and bone from 2 chicken thighs. Place them in food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add ice and process until absorbed. Add sour cream and pulse again until well mixed. Add spinach, 1/2 teaspoon salt, fennel, lemon zest, nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Pulse, scraping down sides, until mixed. Set aside.

3. Arrange remaining thighs on cutting board, skin side up. Carefully pull back skin, leaving attached on one end. Divide ground chicken and spinach mixture evenly between 6 thighs, spreading it evenly. Stretch skin back over filling on each thigh. Arrange stuffed thighs on plate, cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

4. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. In oven-safe skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Season chicken skin lightly with salt and pepper, then add the chicken to the skillet, skin side down. Cook until skin is golden brown, then use tongs to turn thighs skin side up. Place skillet in the oven and roast for 25 minutes, or until the thighs reach 160 F.

5. Remove skillet from the oven and cover with foil. Let rest 5 minutes before transferring each thigh to serving plate. Spoon any juices from skillet over the thighs before serving. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

- 5 oz baby spinach
- 2 lbs skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs (8 thighs)
- 2 tbsp crushed ice
- 1/3 cup low-fat sour cream
- Kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp fennel seeds, crushed
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1/8 tsp grated nutmeg
- Ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

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LAKEVIEW HECLA RESORT

Give your green beans Italian flare

Balsamic vinegar and Parmigiano give this green bean side dish an Italian feel. Caramelizing shallots brings out their natural sweetness.

1. In nonstick frying pan, heat oil and 1 tsp (5 ml) of the butter over medium heat until butter melts. Add shallots, salt and sugar. Cook, stirring frequently, 10 minutes or until golden brown and caramelized. If necessary, add 1 tbsp (15 ml) of water to prevent sticking. Stir in balsamic vinegar. Cook 30 seconds or until reduced; set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in pot of boiling salted water, cook beans for 3 to 5 minutes or until tender-crisp. Drain well. Return to pot; toss with remaining 2 tsp (10 ml) butter until butter is melted and beans are coated. Stir in shallot mixture until combined. Transfer to serving dish; sprinkle with shaved Parmigiano.

Green Beans with Caramelized Shallots

This recipe serves four. PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

COURTESY PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) virgin olive oil
- 3 tsp (15 ml) unsalted butter
- 1 pkg (250 g) shallots, peeled and sliced lengthwise
- Pinch salt
- Pinch granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) PC Splendido Balsamic Vinegar Of Modena 2 Leaves
- 1 pkg (340 g) green beans
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) shaved PC Splendido Parmigiano Reggiano

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As light as snow? The iPad Air is a hot tech gift this season — PAGE 22

Games will delight finding the latest releases under the tree — PAGE 29

Create lasting memories by reading holiday books with the family — PAGE 30

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All I want for Christmas

iPad Air — $519 and up

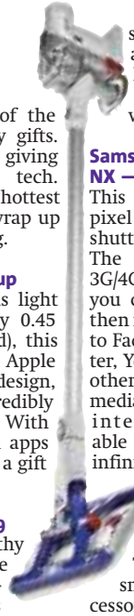
Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Electronics are one of the most popular holiday gifts. Don't disappoint by giving someone outdated tech. Here are some of the hottest gadgets to help you wrap up your holiday shopping.

iPad Air — $519 and up
A new iPad that is as light as air. Weighing only 0.45 kilograms (one pound), this latest tablet from Apple features a thinner design, smaller bezel and incredibly fast processing power. With almost half a million apps available this really is a gift anyone can enjoy.

FitBit Force — $129.99
Give the gift of healthy living. The FitBit Force tracks your daily activities such as steps taken, distance travelled, and calories burned and then lets you see them in real time across multiple devices. It tracks your sleep at night and wakes you up with a silent alarm.



Samsung Galaxy NX — $1,599
This impressive 20.3-megapixel camera will stun the shutterbug on your list. The Galaxy NX packs 3G/4G plus Wi-Fi so you can snap a pic, then instantly share to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media. With interchangeable lenses, you get infinite imaging possibilities.

iPhone 5s — $719 (no contract)
The world's first 64-bit smartphone. Faster processor, better graphical capabilities and a much better camera are just a few of the features that make this smartphone stand out from the pack. Plus, a TouchID scanner keeps your device locked using your fingerprint as the key.

Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract)
A smartphone for those who love a large screen. Paired with the S Pen (stylus) you can write notes, draw on maps or edit photos without relying on your fingers. It will also transcribe your handwriting into text.

Sony 4K Ultra HDTV — $4,499.99
Help someone build the ultimate man cave with Sony's latest television that boasts four times the resolution of HDTV. This TV up-converts HD video into 4K resolution, which is handy since true 4K content is quite limited. Gamers will love the feature that allows two player games with no split screen. You can also control this TV with your smartphone.

Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99
Wearable technology is finally here. Pair it with select Samsung smartphones to receive notifications of incoming emails and texts. Make phone calls from your watch or snap pictures and record video with the built-in camera.

Dyson Hard — $349.99
Vacuums may not seem like a great gift, but this vacuum breaks all the rules. This high-tech, cordless Dyson Hard is specifically designed for cleaning hard flooring. Using dual suction channels, it sucks up debris as it removes grime using a wet wipe in a single action. Wet wipes are sold separately.

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US
Use it like a regular desktop PC in the upright position, or recline the monitor flat and use it as a large tablet. The 10-point touchscreen ensures you will get the most out of Windows 8 while the integrated Beats Audio speakers with subwoofer will provide rich, dynamic sound for those who want more out of their computer.

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US
The world's smallest Micro Four Thirds camera to date. Fashionable design, yet loaded with features. Budding photographers will love the intelligent assistance that will help you take the perfect photo, while experienced shutterbugs can take advantage of full manual controls. Built-in Wi-Fi makes sharing those memories even easier.

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US, clockwise, from left, FitBit Force — $129.99, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract), Dyson Hard — $349.99, and Sony 4K Ultra HD TV — $4,499.99.

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Honing up on the Ho, Ho, Ho's

It may seem easy to look the part of Santa Claus with the beard, red suit and rotund belly, but the owner of the Santa School says there is more to stepping into the black boots than merely mimicking his outer appearance.

Jennifer Andrews has welcomed would-be Santas from around the world to her Calgary-based school where instructors offer guidance on the art of becoming St. Nick. They also have professionally trained "Santa regional representatives" who work in Calgary and surrounding areas, as well as within North America, Europe and Asia.

"We want them all to be Santa, but they're always their own version of Santa. They're going to bring their own personality and their own backstory," said Andrews, who was recently asked to lead a training crash course for The Magic of Christmas, a Calgary charity.

"One of the things that I always teach the Santas is that I don't want any cookie-cutter Santas," she said. "I usually say I want them to be like snowflakes. They're all individual, they're all beautiful in their own way."

Santa School offers a three-day course for both novices and seasoned Santas emphasizing the importance of embodying the spirit of Claus in physical appearance and mannerisms.

Andrews said participants are taught how to care for their beards, whether they are real or of the "designer" variety. Santas also learn the importance of maintaining a large presence within a room, like crafting their grand entrance and exit and the manner in which they address people, command energy and stir excitement.

Then there is the matter of another key Santa signature — his laugh.

"There are some schools that teach that you do three 'ho, ho, hos' and then you're done. That is not correct. Nobody laughs three times. It's however long that laugh is," Andrews said.

"Sometimes it's a quizzical laugh. Sometimes it's a happy laugh. Sometimes it's a 'You've been naughty' laugh. ... We always teach them how to 'ho, ho, ho' as their laugh and we teach it to come right from their belly."

Bob Slocombe has made appearances as Santa at malls and private parties. His wife, Linda, sometimes portrays Mrs. Claus, and the couple visits a seniors home on Christmas Day.

With a curly white beard and hair flowing past his shoulders, the 66-year-old has no trouble looking the part. He recalled several instances outside of the holidays where he has been out in plain clothes and addressed as Santa.

Still, Slocombe said Santa School offered fresh perspective on his portrayal of Claus. A self-described "big man" around six-foot-four, Slocombe said he tries to be more gentle and quiet when around children to help convey that he's approachable and friendly.

"It was an education in terms of how you say things and deliver yourself both with the physical presence and hand motions and gestures as well as voice," Slocombe said in a phone interview from his farm in the foothills southwest of Calgary.

"For example, eyebrows should not be knitted together. I have very big eyebrows, I'm fortunate that way, but you don't want them knitted in the centre. That gives a scowling kind of look."

Slocombe said he tries to be slow in his approach to kids, getting them to give him a high five to get them talking and not making a fuss if they don't want to sit on his knee.

"When they can start to know that I'm a real person and that I have genuine interest in them, that usually softens them. Not always, because some of them are genuinely just fearful of all of that hair."

Andrews said even Santas that look "amazing" sometimes rely too much on appearance and not enough on skill. To help complete the transformation — and cement them in character — they are taught to have one last item that they put on prior to leaving for appearances, like their glasses or bells.

"When that goes on, from the time they walk out of wherever they're being dressed, to the time they're out of that suit, they are now Santa," Andrews said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tracey Drummond helps Santa School participant Doug Bell with his hat. Would-be Santas have travelled fromaround the world to the Calgary school for in-depth training and tips on becoming Santa. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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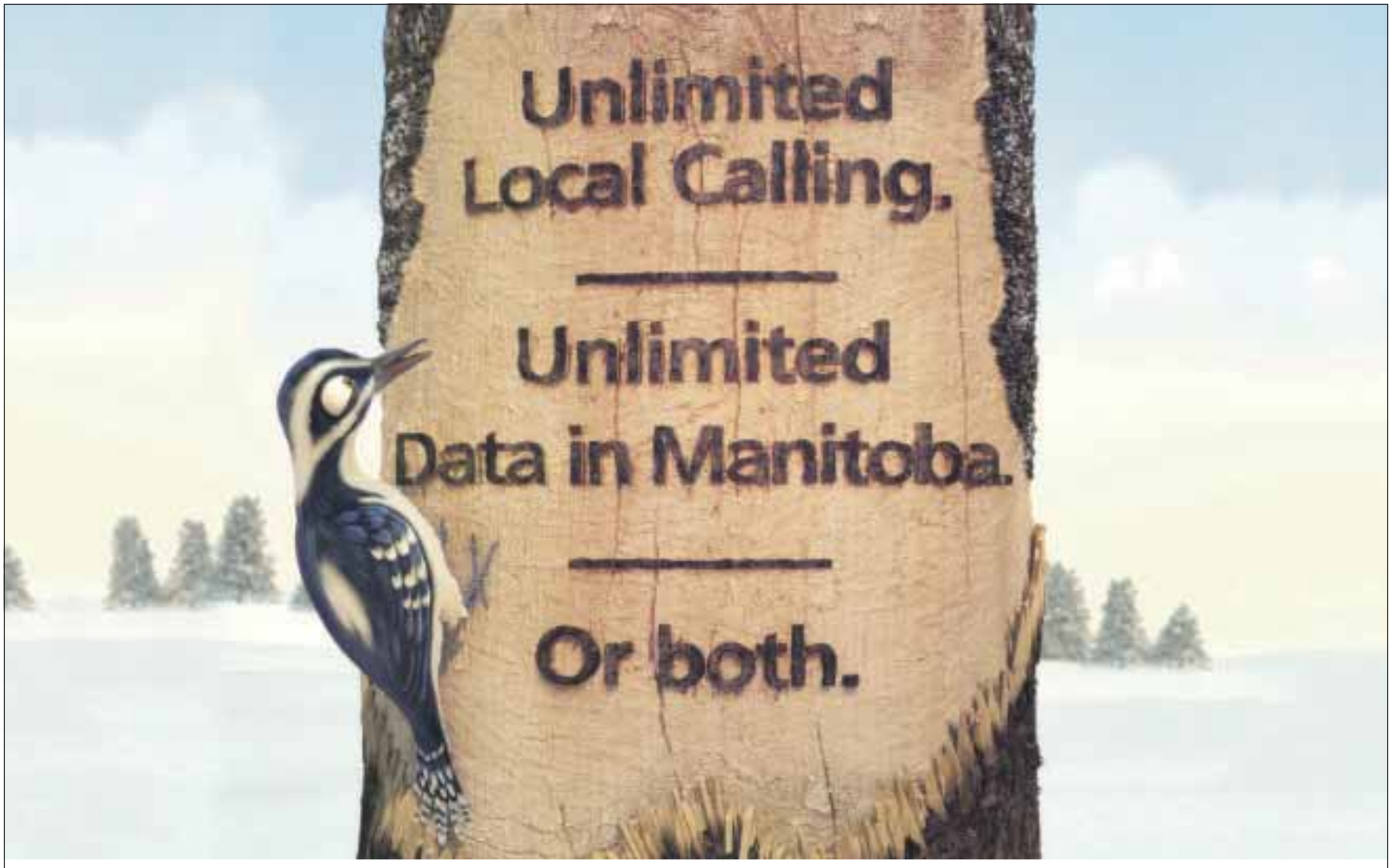

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A cruise for Christmas makes a great gift for everyone from kids to grandparents. HOLLAND AMERICA PHOTO

Spend the holiday at sea

DIANE TIERNEY
For Metro

You can still have a white Christmas in the Caribbean, Mexico or any other warm climate if you take a cruise. Most cruise lines go crazy when it comes to creating a festive atmosphere for the holidays, even if it means making fake snow and decking the decks with holiday decor.

Atriums, lobbies and lounges will be graced with gigantic Christmas trees, some soaring three decks high. Staircase banisters are draped with garlands dripping with holly. Lavish wreaths hang on doors. Stockings hang from faux fireplaces.

Cruise lines take extra delight in performing opulent holiday pageants and serving sumptuous meals to honour the season.

Plus, if your kids are worried that Santa won't find them at sea, no need. Santa has been known to parasail onto the deck, making kids think he just jumped out of his sleigh from the sky.

Family-oriented cruise lines such as Carnival, Holland America and Royal Caribbean are extra sweet at keeping spirits high.

"We traditionally see very strong demand for Christmas cruises," said Terry Thornton, senior vice-president of marketing for Carnival. "The pricing is affordable and we have ships departing from about a dozen U.S. ports to make them easy to drive to rather than fly."

The growing trend for holiday cruises is to make it a family reunion. To accommodate large groups, cruise lines have created more inter-connecting cabins, as well as condo-sized staterooms that can sleep more than one family.

"In recent years, we've hosted many more multi-generational families, from kids and grandparents to their extended family members," Thornton said.

"A cruise allows guests of all ages and interests to spend the holidays together."

Carnival features special holiday-themed entertainment, children's programs and traditional meals — turkey, mincemeat pies, eggnog and more. Passengers celebrating Hanukkah can enjoy menus with potato latkes, matzo ball soup and gefilte fish.

On Royal Caribbean, young passengers participate in gingerbread house contests, decorate Christmas cookies, make ornaments and prepare a pageant to show parents.

Santa Claus, with his sack full of toys, visits with children and there is usually a fair in the atrium that offers youngsters games, contests, balloon animals and face painting.

The sophisticated shows in the theatres focus their musicals on the season. Or for those passengers who like entertainment that's more subdued, there are readings of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and classic TV movies to watch in your cabin.

Holland America passengers enjoy gala feasts, caroling, holiday shows, tree lightings, visits with Santa and a variety of religious services.

Talk about pets as a gift first

If you are thinking about giving a pet to someone this holiday season, it's best if it isn't a surprise. Whether you plan to adopt from a rescue group or shelter or buy from a breeder or pet store, the general guidelines are the same.

"We do adopt out dogs and cats successfully during our annual Home for the Holidays program, but we don't allow them to be adopted as surprise gifts," said Sandra Flemming, the director of animal care for the Nova Scotia SPCA.

Before an animal can be adopted from the SPCA during the holidays, everyone who lives in the home must confirm that they are on board — it can't even be a surprise for the kids.

Getting the entire family's consent lowers the chances that the animal will be returned to the shelter because someone is allergic or afraid of it. It also means the adopters will have discussed up front whether they can afford a pet and have the time and energy to take care of it.

For those who know a friend or relative who wants to adopt an SPCA animal, a gift certificate is ideal.

"It allows the person to choose their own pet when the time is right."

One of the most important things to decide is which type of animal will suit your lifestyle.

"Cats and kittens are less work for busy people than dogs and puppies," Flemming said.

JANE DOUCET

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It's time to light up the neighbourhood. MAP 1273/SHUTTERSTOCK

Light the season fantastic

It's time to drag out the holiday lights for another season. Tired of those same awkward strings of finicky lights that are so difficult to hang year after year?

Check out the latest illuminating options.

Clip-ons. One of the most frustrating things about hanging lights is getting them to actually stay in place.

"Usually, you have to purchase and attach clips separately," said Brian Rattray, general manager of two Toronto-based Canadian Tire stores. "Noma Quick Clip LED Lights are new this year. Whether you hang your outdoor lights on a tree, a gutter or a fence, the clips are heavy-duty and attach to just about anything to make hanging lights a lot easier."

Laser illumination. If you want to skip the lights — or enhance your outdoor decor — you can add a Bliss Laser Light Stake to project the look of lights on your house or on a tree.

"It gives the appearance of mini-lights all over the house," Rattray said. "Just stake it into the ground and you're done. It's much like a floodlight in its simplicity."

Let it snow. A new product called Light Flurries works on the same principle. It's a small flood light that casts light into a box containing a mirrored ball, which, in turn, projects the look of snow falling on your house.

MICHELLE WILLIAMS

Gather all ye around a video game

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Video games continue to be a hot holiday gift for both young and old. Here are some of the top titles for all ages this holiday season.

The Last of Us — PS3
This character-driven action adventure is easily one of the best games for the Playstation 3 this year. A virus spreads across the U.S., turning the population into deadly abominations. An unlikely duo must make their way across a post-pandemic U.S. in the unlikely hope of bringing it all to an end. While the game is amazing, the language and fright factor means mature gamers only.

Beyond: Two Souls — PS3
An incredible psychological action-thriller featuring the voices of Canada's own Ellen Page, along with William Dafoe. A young women possesses supernatural powers through a psychic link to an invisible entity. This game is completely different from any other on the market. Features incredible storytelling, playing out more as a movie than an action game.

Skylanders Swap Force — Multiple consoles
A new adventure with new characters. This time, Skylanders figurines (physical toys that come to life in the game) break apart in the middle so you can mix and match bodies to create all new characters.

Kids (and adults) will love the funny new story, but be prepared to shell out cash for all the figurines to see everything Skylanders Swap Force has to offer.

Disney Infinity — Multiple consoles
A magical mix of Minecraft, Skylanders and Disney. Plastic Disney characters come to life on your TV once you place them on a special base. Create worlds, bring in your favourite Pixar or Disney character, then let your imagination run wild. The possibilities in this game are endless.

Grand Theft Auto 5 — Xbox 360, PS3
Take on the role of three criminals in the latest instalment of this controversial franchise. GTA 5 features one of the largest and diverse open worlds to discover. Fight rival street gangs, pull off dramatic heists or simply explore the vast city of Los Santos. This groundbreaking series is filled with violence and coarse language so don't even consider purchasing this for youngsters. Mature gamers only.

Pokemon X/Y — Nintendo 3DS
This classic Nintendo franchise gets a massive overhaul just in time for the holidays. This is the first Pokemon game to feature full 3D environments. With all new Pokemon to collect and a campaign that will take 30-plus hours to complete, this new title will satisfy fans both old and new.

Super Mario 3D World — Wii U
The perfect game to play as a family. Super Mario 3D World is the first 3D Mario platformer for Nintendo's Wii U console. Play as Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach or Toad as you overcome wildly creative obstacles. Get ready for new power-ups like the cat suit and new never-seen-before enemies like sand Goombas.

Batman Arkham Origins — Xbox 360, PS3
Taking place before the rise of Gotham's most dangerous villains and assassins, this game features a young Batman still in the early stages of his career as a crime fighter. This title introduces the notorious villains Batman will find himself fighting for years to come. A must-have for comic book lovers on your list.

Far Cry 3 — Xbox 360, PS3
Stranded in a tropical paradise and fighting to survive, Far Cry 3 brings incredible game

play with one of the most memorable villains. Explore an island full of secrets and use the environment to craft items and weapons to help you survive.

Dead Rising 3 — Xbox One
Zombies have never been more popular. This Vancouver-developed title for Microsoft's Xbox One console will have you crafting makeshift weapons to take on a hoards of flesh-eating zombies before a military strike wipes the city you are stranded in off the map. The clock is ticking — can you make it out alive?

Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag — Multiple consoles
Take the helm of your ship and live the life of a pirate. Explore open waters and dive for treasure in this historical action-adventure featuring many figures from the golden age of piracy. This franchise has been a favourite, and the latest instalment looks absolutely gorgeous.

The greatest stories of the season

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Do you remember your parents reading you a beloved holiday story? If you are on the lookout for a great book to share with your family this year, try one of these festive favourites and classics, recommended by Robin Tameshtit, director of kids and teen print at Indigo.

Gather the family around the tree and a fire and read some classic holiday tales to create memorable moments. COLOURBOX

Elf On The Shelf
This fun Christmas advent game and story will help build holiday excitement. It's become an instant favourite with a dedicated fan following and loads of Christmas magic. (Carol Aebersold, $34.99, Zibbers Inc.).

How The Grinch Stole Christmas
This perennial classic is fantastic to read aloud and has a heartwarming holiday message about the affects the Christmas spirit can have on even the smallest and coldest of hearts. (Dr. Seuss, $18.99, Random House of Canada).

The Night Before Christmas
This enduring classic is brought to life by the signature plasticine art of Canadian favourite Barbara Reid. A perfectly adorable take on the Christmas Eve tale. (Clement Moore, $19.99, Scholastic Book Services).

Scaredy Squirrel Prepares For Christmas
A quirky, fun-filled guide of practical tips and nutty step-by-step instructions to help readers prepare for Christmas — being prepared is so much fun with the adorable Scaredy Squirrel. (Melanie Watt, $18.95, University of Toronto Press).

Olivia Helps With Christmas
The fabulous, dramatic piglet is back and ready to help out with the holidays in the way only this adorable pig can. Sure to bring about giggling and holiday cheer in this board book edition. (Ian Falconer, $9.99, Simon & Schuster Canada).

Polar Express
Winner of the 1986 Caldecott Medal, it's the story of a boy's magical train ride to the north pole on Christmas Eve to receive a special gift from Santa. A guaranteed holiday favourite. (Chris Van Allsburg, $23.95, Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.).

Night Before Christmas — 10th Anniversary
This loved Christmas classic poem comes to life in this perfect edition that you will read with your family year after year. Includes stunning illustrations by Christian Birmingham. (Clement C. Moore, $11.50, Perseus Distribution).

Peanuts — A Charlie Brown Christmas
A no-fail classic to share with an excellent dose of nostalgia. Read along with Charlie Brown in his heartwarming quest to uncover the true meaning of Christmas with Snoopy, Linus, and friends. (Charles M. Schulz, $21.00, Perseus Distribution).

Porcupine In A Pine Tree Gift Set
A Canadian version of the 12 Days of Christmas, complete with fun rhymes and adorable illustrations. The deluxe box set comes with an adorably huggable plush porcupine. (Helaine Becker, $24.99, Scholastic Book Services).

That's Not My Snowman
Delightfully wintery, this board book is great for the littlest revellers. Combines colourful illustrations with a variety of different textures to touch and feel. (F. Watt, $11.95, Penguin Canada Books Inc.).

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Green for the season. Wrapping with scrap

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Feeling eco-minded about your festive gift wrap? No one likes to see all that expensive paper filling up the trash.

So go green this season and try some of these ideas, compiled with the help of Toronto-based eco crafts expert Mona Dhanjal, and wrap with scrap.

• Turn an old book into a fancy reusable gift box by carving out the pages with a utility knife. Then line it with felt and glue on some old holiday cards.

• Glue old photos or postcards to bags, boxes or paper to make unique wrap or gift tags with a personal touch. Trim with fancy edges using pinking shears.

• Paint an old suitcase festive colours, glue on travel stickers or a festive scene cut out of old holiday wrap or cards, and tie on a shipping tag and a big red bow. Fill it with hard-to-wrap gifts. Doubles as perfect storage for holiday ornaments.

• Turn leftover wallpaper into beautiful origami boxes. You can get easy instructions online.

• Bits of felt can be used to make gift tags or little pouches and envelopes.

• Wrap in burlap. It's biodegradable, it looks great and it's reusable.

• Sew or knit a handy reusable tote bag from bits of cloth with holiday designs, velvet and lace.

• Fill a pretty wicker basket with gift items and dress it up with a bow — no need to wrap.

• Instead of holiday gift wrap, wrap using other scrap paper such as old magazines, sheet music, maps or calendars.

• Embellish gifts with items found in nature, like berry sprigs, pinecones, or springs of greenery.

• Wire miniature orphaned ornaments and beads together to add luxe to a simple gift tag.

• Crumple, iron and pleat used tissue paper, then layer it on gift boxes or bags.

• Wrap a gift in a holiday scarf or a cloth napkin, which can be used later to line a bread basket on a holiday table.

• Get the kids to decorate white or brown kraft paper with stamps, stickers or holiday themed cut-outs from old gift cards or wrap. Or create artwork to use as wrap.

More tips

- Recycle gift tags from year to year.
- Raffia or string looks just as pretty as ribbon.
- Eliminate tape if you are going to recycle paper.

Go green with your wrapping this season. SYDA PRODUCTIONS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Give her glowing holiday glam

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Wonderful makeup and skin care treats for the ladies on your gift list.

Formula X for Sephora, The Twenty-Two. A comprehensive starter set of Sephora's new line of cream, bright and chrome polishes and fantastical top coats for every nail colour enthusiast. $66 at Sephora and sephora.ca.

Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar. Twenty-four days of adorable makeup minis. $79 at Sephora.

Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set. A genius way to give greatest-hits skin care. $94 ($150 value) at Sephora, Hudson's Bay, Shoppers Drug Mart.

Cool-it Caddy Icepops Freezeable Cosmetics Case. Freeze-and-go bag keeps sunscreen and lipstick from melting as you lounge for hours on that tropical beach. $23.95, plus shipping, at TheShoppingChannel.com.

Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes. Beautifully constructed, innovative professional tools five years in the making. Double-Ended Sculpting Brush 158, and Medium Paint Brush 412. $61 and $49 at Sephora.

Michael Kors Beauty. Launched this fall, covetable cosmetics from jet-set leisure-wear designer Kors. From $20 to $55 at Hudson's Bay.

NARS Fling Lip Kit. Two signature sheer lipsticks and mini Velvet Matte Lip Pencils plus a keepsake lacquered lip case that blows a kiss to legendary '70s fashion photographer Guy Bourdin. $55 at Hudson's Bay, Holt Renfrew, Murale and narscosmetics.ca.

Smashbox Wonder Vision Mega Palette. A silky array of shadow, blush and bronzer in a variety of finishes plus professional how-to tips. $58 at Shoppers Drug Mart, Murale, Sephora and smashbox.com.

Luxe Lipsticks. Beautiful, elegant lipsticks to up the stocking-stuffer game. **Tom Ford Lip Color Shine,** $55 at Holt Renfrew (full beauty line finally in Canada). **Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick,** $38 at Holt Renfrew, select Hudson's Bay and Sephora locations.

Conair Curl Secret. The latest in nifty hair-curling technology — seeing is believing. $119 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Walmart.

Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set. Eco-friendly indulgence with spa-fresh shower gel, body lotion and body butter; shower puff included. $19 at Rexall and Loblaws.

Michael Kors Beauty, clockwise, from left, Formula X for Sephora The Twenty-Two, NARS Fling Lip Kit, Conair Curl Secret, Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set, Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes, Tom Ford Lip Color Shine and Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick, Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar, and Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set.

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Gift baskets can help teach spirit of giving

Michael Smith wants his children to understand that the Christmas season is about using their time and talent to bring joy to others.

The Canadian chef has been assembling baskets of mainly foodie gifts to give to close family members and friends for about a decade, and putting them together has evolved into an activity that he and his children enjoy together.

"I think the spirit of these baskets is teaching your kids that giving is more important than receiving," he said in a telephone interview from Fortune, P.E.I. "I know that's where the whole idea started for me was years ago, just frustrated with all the stuff flowing one way into the house for the kids and not necessarily feeling like they were engaged with the giving side of things and really trying to figure out a way for them to create a tradition."

Making a basket for someone you care about is personal and perhaps easier in some ways than braving the shops. It can be tailored to the person and your economic situation and need not be expensive.

Smith puts six to eight items in each basket and makes up about 25 of them for close friends and family, then delivers them just before Christmas.

"Anybody can go out and spend 100 bucks and buy some fancy new cookbook or something for your kitchen or some nameless whatever, some anonymous sort of gift — maybe it's special, maybe it's well thought out, but you know what I mean," he said.

"There's nothing more precious than giving your time, than giving your talent."

Smith will be seen as a judge on Chopped Canada, premiering on Food Network Canada Jan. 2, and currently hosts the instructional cooking series Chef Michael's Kitchen. He has also hosted The Inn Chef, Chef at Home, Chef at Large and Chef Abroad, so it's not surprising that his baskets take on a food theme, but he says they can be tailored to the interests of the giver or recipient.

Each basket always contains a handmade ornament created by him and his children. Gabe, 11, and Ariella, 5, play an active role, and Smith expects one-year-old Camille will take part in the future.

They often use different coloured clays and bake them into shapes, such as snowmen, wreaths or Christmas trees. Last year it was a small box gift-wrapped with ribbons.

"We know we have friends who can look at their tree and see six, seven, eight years worth of ornaments that the kids have made for them. It's pretty cool."

"I also like to include what I call the foodie find," says Smith, who led the team of chefs that cooked at the Whistler athletes village during the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games and helped make the Canada Summer Games athletes village a junk-food-free zone.

"Over the run of the year I run into a lot of really cool food items and some of them really stick out and are so good that I really feel like sharing them with my friends."

This year he has chosen Cherry Lane concentrated tart cherry juice from Ontario's Niagara region. A personalized dark chocolate bar sprinkled with sea salt and nicknamed The Islander is a nod to Smith's role as food ambassador for P.E.I. will be included.

"And then outside the world of food I like to do a gag gift in there every year, something silly. This year it's actually going to be candy insects. We found earlier this year a company that sells five different cans of canned insect protein, like a can full of crickets sort of thing. Totally edible, totally legit."

For anyone contemplating making up gift baskets, Smith recommends visiting a craft store for inexpensive baskets, fun labels and other decorations.

"Keep it simple and really understand that first and foremost you're giving yourself and you're giving your time and it doesn't need to meet that sort of over-the-top standard of Martha Stewart or the pictures you see in the magazines," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal touch

"Keep it simple and really understand that first and foremost you're giving yourself and you're giving your time and it doesn't need to meet that sort of over-the-top standard of Martha Stewart or the pictures you see in the magazines."

Chef Michael Smith

Cookies and butterscotch sauce are included in chef Michael Smith's holiday gift basket. NATHAN ROCHFORD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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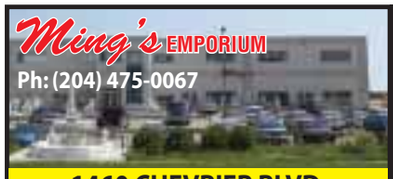
Under Armour ColdGear Infrared Fader Pant, $174.99, available at underarmour.com.

Lululemon Practice Daily Pant, $98, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

Under Armour ColdGear Infrared Cleopatra Jacket, $314.99, available at Underarmour.com.



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Tell me the story of Everest," she said, a fervent smile sweeping across her face, creasing the corners of her eyes. "Tell me about this mountain that's stealing you away from me."
George and Ruth sat on the drawing room floor, laughing and tipsy, dinner growing cold on the table in the next room. Ruth was cross-legged opposite him, her gray skirt pulled tight across her knees. She picked up the single sheet of thick ivory paper from her lap and reread the invitation from the newly formed Mount Everest Committee again. "My husband, the world-famous explorer." Ruth held up her glass of wine and he reached out with his own, the crystal ringing in the lamplit room. She was fairly bursting with happiness.
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Interestingly, a study conducted last year for BMO Harris Private Banking found that 78 per cent of Canadian respondents indicated they would consider making a charitable donation rather than giving a traditional gift.

In-memoriam gifts are a wonderful way to honour a loved one this holiday season. You can also inspire your friends, family, clients and employees with a meaningful gift by providing those in need with a meal in their name. A Christmas card will be sent on your behalf to commemorate your gift.

You can help make change happen today. Your donations of non-perishable food items, warm winter clothes and monetary donations are much needed this time of year.

Make positive change happen for those in need. Please consider making a donation and changing a life today. Your gift makes a difference and is one that keeps on giving. To learn more about Siloam Mission and to give your gift of hope, please visit siloam.ca.

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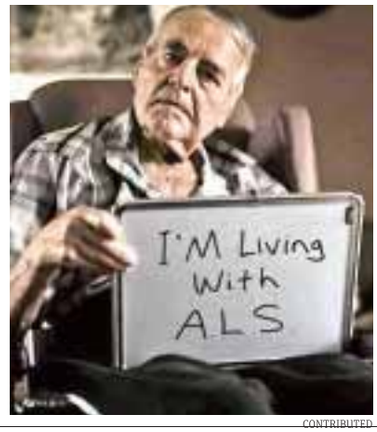

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THE ALS SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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"Quality of life is important for everyone," says says Diana Rasmussen, executive director for the ALS Society of Manitoba, who has been with the society since it was created in the 1980s. "We work hard to offer a place to go, the support needed, and a break from the financial burden that this disease can cause. Living with a life-limiting disease such as ALS means every moment matters."

The ALS Society of Manitoba helps people living with ALS by providing information and support. As the organization continues to grow, it is able to offer more of a client-service-based program, such as the equipment lending program and volunteer family advocate friend (VFAF) program, which helps those living with ALS maintain independence and make informed decisions about their care.

For more information or to donate to the annual Lite Up a Life Campaign, call 204-831-1510, email HOPE@alsmb.ca, or visit alsmb.ca.

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EVERY PURCHASE IS A GIFT TO THE WORLD

KEEWATIN MCC THRIFT STORE

CONTRIBUTED

Known as a store that sells good used furniture in the Westin area, there is more than meets the eye.

The store is efficiently run by four staff and 30 volunteers who have raised more than $1 million for the work of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a relief and development agency working here and abroad.

When typhoon Haivan hit the Philippines, MCC responded by providing $200,000 for urgent food and non-food items for people on Mindanao and Visayas through Church World Service, as well as supporting other partners in an assessment team and determining needs for long-term recovery. MCC is known for working long after media interest has dwindled, helping communities recover and rebuild from devastation.

"The Philippine community here in Winnipeg have been great supporters of our store," says Laurie Goetz, the manager of the Keewatin store. "It's gratifying that we can be involved with helping some of their communities overseas. Our volunteers work here to make a difference in the world and this is one tangible way for them to express their beliefs."

The store, which has been open for 10 years, began because of a need to help resettle refugees in Winnipeg.

"Getting affordable furniture at the time was difficult," says John Wieler, one of the store's founding members. "So the idea of a furniture thrift store took root."

Since that time the need for second-hand furniture has increased to include low-income earners, students, antique collectors and people who just love a great deal.

The two-storey building at 18 Keewatin St. covers 10,000 square feet and features hundreds of furniture pieces and appliances.

"New product is added daily," Goetz says. "Some of our customers come in a few times a week to see what's new. We are so grateful for the tremendous generosity of our donors. Many have expressed gratitude that they can be a part of recycling their furniture, knowing that their donations are going to a good cause.

"I love the idea that we are helping people here in our community, as well as in other parts of the world. It's also such a great way to reuse and recycle perfectly good furniture."

Donations to the Mennonite Central Committee for typhoon Haivan can be made at the Keewatin Furniture Thrift Store at 18 Keewatin St., or the MCC office at 134 Plaza Dr.

Looking for Something Unique?

Visit us at MCC Furniture Thrift at 18 Keewatin Street for Good, Used Furniture at Excellent Prices

25% OFF

Bring in this coupon and receive 25% off any item in the store (excluding new mattress). Not valid with any other promotional specials or discounts. Expires Dec.31 2013.

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18 Keewatin Street, Winnipeg, MB
(one block north of Notre Dame Avenue)

MCC FURNITURE THRIFT STORE

GIFTS OF HOPE: WHEN GIVING IS RECEIVING

Two years ago, Ginger and Scott McClelland decided to see if they could make Christmas a little bit more about giving than receiving. After going through a Gifts of Hope catalogue they had received in the mail, the Ottawa couple chose baby chicks to give to all of their grandchildren.

Gifts of Hope are ethical gifts, which means they give twice — here and abroad. Ginger and Scott felt these gifts were the perfect way to introduce a special kind of holiday giving to their grandchildren. Once the four children, who ranged in age from 10 to 14, had opened the gift card with the picture of a fluffy baby chick on the front, Ginger and Scott explained how the chicks would help support a family in Africa.

"And the kids got very excited very quickly about the gift," Ginger says. "The youngest, Emma, even sent a letter to Santa Claus asking him to make sure the gift got to the family on time."

But the best part of the story was yet to come.

When Christmas came around the following year, the adults in the family agreed that they would exchange Gifts of Hope. However, during the gift exchange the really big surprise was that the four kids had decided that they would exchange Gifts of Hope with each other as well.

"All in all, I think we gave 12 Gifts of Hope, ranging from newborn checkup and a bed net to chicks, a goat, three hens and a rooster," Ginger says. "Our gift to each other was literacy training for two women.

"Sometimes you look at what happens at Christmas and think 'we may be missing the whole point,'" Scott says. "But it was a very emotional and special Christmas last year, and I was incredibly proud of my family."

Gifts of Hope provided everyone in the McClelland family a wonderful way to help make someone else's life a little better and to feel good about it.

"Gifts of Hope really are a unique gift-giving opportunity," says Sangita Patel, director of program management at Plan Canada.

"For people who purchase a gift, it's a way to give a socially conscious gift and to avoid crowded malls. For the recipient, the gift is contributing to important work overseas. For the children of the community that receives the gift, it's about changing and improving their lives."

Plan Canada is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies. Founded in 1937, it works in 69 countries and more than 90,000 communities around the world. Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's increasingly popular year-round ethical giving program, especially popular during the holiday period.

For parents — and grandparents like the McClellands — a Gift of Hope is a great tool to very gently and in a positive way expose children to what life is like for other children in other places, Patel says.

"They provide such a nice teachable moment for kids amidst the holiday rush."

Gifts of Hope support Plan Canada programs in the areas of education, health, clean water, and livelihoods. Fifteen of the gifts are also designated as "Because I am a Girl" gifts, which go to support the work Plan does that directly benefits girls and women.

"These gifts help to unleash the power of girls and women to create a brighter, safer future for girls in the developing world," Patel says.

Gifts suit any budget, ranging in price from $10 for anti-malaria bed nets to $75 for a goat to $1,000 for water and sanitation for communities. Sometimes the dollar value of the gift is matched by a government, foundation or corporate partner for even more impact.

"It's a great way to show care for what's happening in other places," Patel says. "And to show children how one gift can make lives better for other kids and families."

One of the McClelland's grandchildren, Ben, 14, says that the Gift of Hope chicks seemed "kind of weird" at first.

"But after I learned more about it, it felt like you could really help other people, and it was nice to be giving something rather than always just getting a lot."

Ginger and Scott McClelland with their grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED

REAL GIFTS THAT CHANGE REAL LIVES

In all, there are 42 Gifts of Hope to choose from, ranging in price from $10 to $50,000. Every gift comes with a free greeting card or e-card, and 26 of the gifts are matched by government, foundation or organizational partners. Here are some examples:

- Bed nets, $10 (matched for a $70 value)
- School essentials for one child, $17 (matched for a $119 value)
- Birth certificate, $25 (matched for $125 value)
- Newborn checkup, $30 (matched for a $120 value)
- Clean water for families, $75 (matched for $225 value)
- Literacy training for two women, $120 (matched for $600 value)
- Farm load of animals, $190 (matched for a $760 value)
- Help orphaned children affected by HIV, $75 (matched for a $1,200 value)

To see more Gifts of Hope or to place an order, visit plangifts.com or call 1-800-387-1418.

Think outside the gift box

Why a goat? When you give a goat, you provide a family in a developing country with nourishment, the makings of a family business, and a new future. Gifts of Hope are real gifts to real projects that change real lives.

Charitable registration number 11892 8993 RR0001

Give a Gift of Hope

plangifts.com

Founded in 1937, Plan is one of the world's oldest and largest charities working to end global poverty. Inclusive of all faiths and cultures, Plan has only one purpose: to improve the lives of children.

Plan

CHANGE A LIFE, GIVE HOPE TO A CHILD

CONTRIBUTED

Forty years ago, two families left East Africa as immigrants and refugees to establish new roots in Winnipeg. Fifteen years later, Mondetta Clothing was born.

In 2004, the Mondetta Clothing Company established the Mondetta Charity Foundation (MCF) to assist children in the sprawling slum of Uganda's capital of Kamwokya, Kampala. With partner NewLife Home Trust in Kenya, the MCF also supports an orphanage in the coastal town of Lamu.

The orphanage offers a safe refuge to abandoned children from ages one month to three years, many of whom have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. The children are provided quality care, healthy meals and medical services.

The MCF also supports a nutritious meal program at Kamwokya Primary School, which, to date, has served more than two million hungry children. A vital component of this program also involved the restructuring of the schools' kitchen and provided uniforms for all 1,500 students.

The MCF raises funds through donations, the annual Charity Classic golf tournament and receives one per cent of the gross revenue from Mondetta's Performance Gear clothing line.

In partnership with the Seven Oaks School Division and Arthur Wright School, the MCF revitalized the school's library with books donated by the division and instituted an educational exchange program that enables African and Canadian teachers the opportunity to visit their respective schools.

In July 2012, the MCF launched the inaugural "Dental Mission," which enabled five dentists, assistants and families to travel to Uganda to establish a temporary clinic, which provided treatment to more than 400 children that would likely never have received dental care otherwise.

This past October, MCF teamed up with Seven Oaks School Division once again to institute the "Spare Change for Brains" program, which raised $13,700 to assist the students of Kamwokya Primary School.

There are currently three large projects in progress and the MCF is working towards these ambitious goals. To learn more about its ongoing initiatives, visit mondetta.com/mcf.

Your donations are always welcome. Please visit canadahelps.org and type "Mondetta Charity Foundation" in the search field. Your gift will change a life and give hope to a child in need today.

You can mail a cheque to 1109 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg, R3E 0S2.

Donate to MCF online at CanadaHelps.org
Search "Mondetta Charity Foundation"

You may also mail your donation (cheque or money order) to:

Mondetta Charity Foundation
1109 Winnipeg Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0S2

CRA CHARITABLE REGISTRATION #:
817720071RR0001

MONDETTA CHARITY FOUNDATION
Raising Awareness By Remembering The Past.

For more information visit:
www.mondetta.com/mcf

PERKINS PROUDLY SUPPORTS COMMUNITY

MEET DR. GOODBEAR

Did you know that for the entire month of January, kids eat free at Perkins Restaurant & Bakery?

During the month of January, customers can enter a drawing for an Apple iPad Mini at each location. Perkins is also proud to support the community through the Children's Hospital Foundation. Dr. Goodbear will be making appearances at all Winnipeg locations Jan 11-12. Donations can be made to the Children's Hospital Foundation at all Perkins locations during January. Bring the kids to meet Dr. Goodbear and they eat for free.

Healthy new menu items and superb bakery additions are coming soon to your neighbourhood Perkins. A sneak peek of the delicious new offerings are tasty Greektown Grilled Chicken, succulent San Francisco Stir-fry and mouth-watering Peanut Butter Silk Cake.

Give the gift of Perkins this season. With every $25 gift card purchased, you will receive a $5 gift card for free.

While you are making your rounds, stop in and pick up Perkins' freshly baked favourites. Delicious pies, breads and its famous Mammoth Muffins® await you and your guests.

Visit Perkins' new location on Kenaston Boulevard, Sunday to Wednesday, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Thursday to Saturday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

CONTRIBUTED

CONTRIBUTED

HOW DO YOU WISH TO BE REMEMBERED?

CONSIDER LEAVING A BEQUEST

Gladys's will said a lot about her. What does your will say about you?

"At the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, we understand that planning for your passing is difficult" says Blair Nicholls, CFRE, planned giving officer at Children's Hospital Foundation. "Statistics suggest that only 50 to 60 per cent of the population has a will, which can create unnecessary issues for the family."

The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba encourages you to consider leaving a bequest in your will, as the hospital helps more than 120,000 children each year. A common misconception is that you have to be wealthy, but, realistically, a person of modest means can leave a gift and make a difference in the life of a child.

There are many ways to give. You can opt to gift your life insurance or RRSP benefits and be as individual as you wish in choosing an area of research or create an endowment fund that you care deeply about that generates income to the foundation.

Your gift will ensure future generations of children receive the highest standard of care at Children's Hospital. To change the life of a child, contact Blair Nicholls at 204-787-4038 or bnicholls2@hsc.mb.ca, or at goodbear.mb.ca.

Let Your Legacy Live On

John was so excited to become a grandfather. When James was born, John was grateful to have a healthy grandson who loved to smile. He decided to make a bequest in his will to help create a legacy to help keep smiles on the faces of sick kids, even in difficult times.

Find out how you can make a bequest in your will, or other legacy gift to the Children's Hospital Foundation...
because sick children need us NOW.

Contact Blair Nicholls at: 204.787.4038 or goodbear.mb.ca

the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba

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KENASTON NOW OPEN

The Avalanche's Matt Duchene scores a first-period goal on Ondrej Pavelec at MTS Centre on Thursday night. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duchene destroys Jets' hope vs. Avs

NHL. After notching two in regulation, young Colorado centre seals win in shootout

Matt Duchene and P.A. Parenteau scored in the shootout as the Colorado Avalanche stopped a two-game losing skid with a 4-3 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Thursday.

Duchene also scored twice and added an assist in regulation and Ryan O'Reilly scored a goal and added an assist for the Avs (21-9-0).

On Thursday

Avalanche	Jets
4	3

Blake Wheeler scored twice, Michael Frolik added another and Grant Clitsome had a pair of assists for Winnipeg (14-4-5).

Duchene scored his second goal of the night to give the Avalanche a 3-2 lead with 1.6 seconds left in the second period when he backhanded a rebound into the open side of the net as goalie Ondrej Pavelec tried to slide back.

But Winnipeg used its fifth power play to tie the game 3-3 at 10:00 of the third period after Mark Scheifele sent a shot from the point that Wheeler put in past a screened Semyon Varlamov with two seconds left in a tripping penalty to Cory Sarich.

Avs winger Gabriel Landeskog put Winnipeg on its sixth power play of the night when he was called for boarding after checking defenceman Mark Stuart face-first into the boards with six minutes left in the third, but the Jets couldn't capitalize. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Feaster out as GM in Calgary

The Calgary Flames shook up their front office Thursday after a disappointing start to the season, firing general manager Jay Feaster and assistant general manager John Weisbrod.

The Flames have just 26 points this season, good for 13th place in the 14-team Western Conference.

Brian Burke, the team's president of hockey operations, will serve as acting general manager. He said the search for Feaster's replacement is underway.

Burke felt the moves needed to be made to get the franchise back on track as it tries to pursue a championship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Chamberlain joining Tigers

Joba Chamberlain and the Tigers have agreed to terms on a one-year contract, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Chamberlain will get a fresh start in Detroit in a relatively low-pressure role as a middle reliever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Red Sox open coffer for Napoli

The Boston Red Sox finalized their two-year deal with first baseman Mike Napoli on Thursday, bringing back one of the biggest hitters from the World Series team.

Napoli will earn $32 million through 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No case of the Blues in St. Louis for Steen

Struggling Leaf. Steen recorded only 2 goals and 2 assists in 20 games before being traded to St. Louis

When the Maple Leafs drafted Alex Steen 24th overall in 2002, he seemed like the perfect hybrid of hockey heritages.

Not only was he the son of a Swedish-born pro, Thomas Steen, who captained the first incarnation of the NHL's Winnipeg Jets and played 950 career games in the league. Alex was a dual Swedish-Canadian citizen who grew up on the prairie, kibitzing with the likes of Tie Domi in the Jets dressing room when he wasn't playing his minor hockey on outdoor rinks in the hardest of blusters.

"I've always admired Canadian teams," Steen said on the day he was picked. "Toronto has always been one of my favourite teams."

The feeling wasn't mutual for nearly long enough, of course. Just 20 games into his fourth season in Toronto — a season in which he'd compiled just two goals and two assists — he was dealt to the St. Louis Blues at age 24. He wasn't the only Leaf who was shipped. Toronto also traded their 17th overall selection in the 2001 draft, Carlo Colaiacovo, in exchange for Lee Stempniak. Seen a little more than five years later, the trade has to rank as one of the most disastrous transactions in the franchise's recent history. Even if Colaiacovo has always struggled to stay healthy — and is currently languishing as a healthy scratch — Steen has emerged as one of the best two-way players in the league.

He's also slated to become an unrestricted free agent this coming summer, which could make him a sought-after commodity should he not come to terms with the Blues on a contract extension.

Stempniak, meanwhile, is a distant memory in Leafland, flipped in 2009 to Phoenix for Matt Jones and draft picks.

"It's so long ago for me; I don't sit and dwell on what could have been (in Toronto)," Steen said after Thursday's morning skate at Scottrade Center, where the Blues were scheduled to meet the Leafs a few hours later. "For me (what happened in Toronto) is not that important. What's important is right now, and moving forward with our team." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Quoted

"It's so long ago for me; I don't sit and dwell on what could have been (in Toronto)."

Alex Steen, St. Louis Blues forward

Alexander Steen of the St. Louis Blues warms up before playing the Capitals at the Verizon Center on Nov. 17 in Washington, D.C. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

CFL

Wave of change hits CFL in 2014

A new team, new stadiums and new rivalries are just some of the things that await football fans, with the 2014 CFL season promising more changes than any in recent years.

The season just finished may have had a storybook ending for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, who won their fourth Grey Cup on home turf, but it was a challenge for many other teams in the CFL.

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers lived up to their name, bombing big time in their spiffy new stadium as they went 3-15. Even Investors Group Field showed cracks, very literally, and less than a year after it opened, renovations are taking place to the open-air press box so the city can at some point soon host a Grey Cup.

Despite some record-setting performances from quarterback Ricky Ray, the Toronto Argonauts stumbled on their path to earn a return trip to the Grey Cup.

And the Montreal Alouettes got a peek at life without veteran quarterback Anthony Calvillo and it wasn't pretty.

Montreal QB Anthony Calvillo
RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

But tomorrow is another day and here are a few things expected when the 2014 season gets underway:

Welcome black: The Ottawa RedBlacks will return the CFL to the nation's capital. The CFL has been an eight-team league since the Ottawa Renegades suspended operations before the 2006 season.

Do I hear 10? The CFL is staying Canadian this time, but it doesn't want to stop at nine teams. The league is looking for a 10th host city, perhaps Moncton or Halifax.

Go west young Blue: The return of Ottawa to the CFL allows the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to move back to their historic base in the CFL West Division.

New stadiums: Besides the RedBlacks' remodelled stadium at Lansdowne, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats plan to christen Tim Hortons Field in 2014, after spending a vagabond construction season as tenants of the University of Guelph. The Saskatchewan Roughriders are expecting their new $278-million digs to be football-ready by 2017.

New coaches: The league will see some first-time new head coaches in 2014. Edmonton and Winnipeg both have new coaches in 2014 after finishing seventh and eighth in league standings in 2013. Former Argonauts defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones landed his first CFL head coaching job in Edmonton in late November and the Bombers then tabbed Argos special-teams co-ordinator Mike O'Shea for his first top spot. The Ottawa RedBlacks picked Calgary defensive co-ordinator Rick Campbell to lead their debut in the league. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dan Church resigned as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Head coach of women's national team resigns

Hockey. Dan Church says there wasn't confidence in him leading the squad to another Olympic gold

Dan Church abruptly stepped down as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team saying he felt others lacked confidence in his ability to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics.

Church resigned from the job Thursday less than two months before the opening ceremonies of the Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

"If there isn't confidence in what I'm doing, I need to step aside and let the team move on," Church told The Canadian Press in a phone interview. "I'm heartbroken, to be honest, about the whole situation."

He did not specify whether it was players or Hockey Canada management who questioned his competence.

"Just discussions I'd had over the last few days made that apparent, in some meetings I'd had with leadership," Church said. "I think it was just difference of opinion on the direction we were headed.

"In the end, I just decided if I'm getting in the way of where the team needs to go, I need to step aside and let them continue on in the process."

The move was a bombshell as the 21-player Olympic team was expected to be announced before the end of December. The Canadian women will attempt to win a fourth straight gold medal in Sochi after victories in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

Canada is coming off a loss in the final of this year's world championship to the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This decision came upon us in the last few hours and we're going to react as quickly as possible."

Hockey Canada's COO Scott Smith

High-performance sport

COC makes a splash with cash to OTP

The Canadian Olympic Committee has made a record cash injection into high-performance sport.

COC president Marcel Aubut pledged $37 million Thursday to Own the Podium over the next four years.

The contribution between 2013-16 is a 48 per cent increase from the previous four years, a quadrennial that included the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games.

The additional funding "allows us to continue to provide critical technical and financial support to athletes and national sport organizations that are poised for podium success," said Anne Merklinger, CEO of Own the Podium.

The funding will go toward summer and winter sports.

Canada won a Winter Games-record 14 gold medals in Vancouver, and a total of 18 medals at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

The COC's goal for Sochi is to improve on the medal count from 2010, and finish at the top of the table for overall medals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	31	21	8	2	86	62	44
Montreal	33	19	11	3	86	73	41
Detroit	32	15	9	8	87	85	38
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Toronto	32	16	13	3	87	90	35
Ottawa	33	13	14	6	94	106	32
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	32	7	23	2	54	94	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	32	13	13	6	75	91	32
Philadelphia	32	14	15	3	72	86	31
Columbus	32	14	15	3	82	88	31
NY Rangers	33	15	17	1	72	88	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
NY Islanders	32	9	18	5	80	111	23

Thursday's results

Philadelphia 2 Montreal 1
Columbus 4 NY Rangers 2
Ottawa 2 Buffalo 1
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Toronto at St. Louis
Dallas at Nashville
Colorado at Winnipeg
Carolina at Calgary
NY Islanders at Phoenix
Boston at Edmonton
Minnesota at San Jose

Wednesday's results

Los Angeles 3 Toronto 1
Chicago 7 Philadelphia 2
Anaheim 2 Minnesota 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	34	23	6	5	129	93	51
St. Louis	29	20	6	3	100	67	43
Minnesota	33	18	10	5	78	77	41
Colorado	29	20	9	0	83	68	40
Dallas	29	14	10	5	83	86	33
Winnipeg	32	14	14	4	83	90	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	34	22	7	5	108	87	49
Los Angeles	32	21	7	4	88	63	46
San Jose	31	19	6	6	103	78	44
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	30	11	15	4	79	100	26
Edmonton	32	11	18	3	89	109	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games

All Times Eastern

New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Saturday's games

Calgary at Buffalo, 2 p.m.
Los Angeles at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Boston at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Kane, Chi	17	25	42
Getzlaf, Ana	16	22	38
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Perry, Ana	21	15	36
Tavares, NYI	12	24	36
Ovechkin, Wash	26	9	35
Steen, StL	21	12	33
Sharp, Chi	15	17	32
Backstrom, Wash	7	25	32
Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Kessel, Tor	16	14	30
Marleau, SJ	14	16	30
St. Louis, TBL	13	17	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Couture, SJ	10	20	30
Toews, Chi	13	16	29

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	14	.417	10
Charlotte	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Detroit	10	13	.435	9½
Chicago	8	12	.400	10
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10½
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11½
Orlando	7	15	.318	12
Philadelphia	7	16	.304	12½
New York	6	15	.286	12½
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	½
d-San Antonio	17	4	.810	½
d-L.A. Clippers	15	8	.652	3½
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4½
Phoenix	12	9	.571	5½
Golden State	13	10	.565	5½
Dallas	13	10	.565	5½
Minnesota	11	11	.500	7
New Orleans	10	10	.500	7
Memphis	10	11	.476	7½
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	7½
Sacramento	6	14	.300	11
Utah	5	19	.208	14

x - clinched playoff berth; **y** - division; **z** - conference.

Thursday's results

L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn
Houston at Portland

Wednesday's results

Orlando 92 Charlotte 83
L.A. Clippers 96 Boston 88
San Antonio 109 Milwaukee 77
New Orleans 111 Detroit 106 OT
Minnesota 106 Philadelphia 99
New York 83 Chicago 78
Oklahoma City 116 Memphis 100
Utah 122 Sacramento 101
Golden State 95 Dallas 93

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Bills point finger at unfair scheduling

Against the refreshed.
Buffalo is 2-3 against teams who've had long rests this season

The Bills aren't impressed with the NFL schedule-maker, who is being blamed for providing Buffalo's opponents with too many breaks — the extended kind.

The Bills' slate this season has them facing a league-high six teams coming off either bye weeks or nine-day layoffs. That includes the New York Jets twice, as well as Buffalo's opponent on Sunday: Jacksonville (4-9) has been off since Dec. 5.

Coach Doug Marrone called that a disadvantage because "the one thing that helps you the most is rest."

Bills president Russ Brandon has expressed his concerns to the NFL.

Bills wide receiver Stevie Johnson
RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

"We certainly have talked to the league about this because it's a little bit disappointing," Brandon said during his weekly radio show on Buffalo's WGR-AM last month.

The Bills couldn't even entirely take advantage of their own bye week on Nov. 24.

They returned the following week to face Atlanta, which was coming off a nine-day rest. And the warm-weather Falcons, who won 34-31 in overtime, also benefited from getting to play indoors in the Bills' annual "home" game in Toronto, and avoid the wintry conditions in Buffalo.

The Bills (4-9) are 2-3 so far in games against teams that have enjoyed extended rests. And they were 1-3 last year, the first season in which the NFL instituted a rule to have each of its 32 teams play on Thursday.

The overall NFL results, however, have been mixed, failing to entirely support the Bills' claim of the more-rested opponent getting an edge. Since the start of 2012, teams facing rested opponents have gone a combined 62-64-2, according to STATS.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A decision you made a long time ago doesn't seem like a great idea now but you're stuck with it. Make the best of the situation and promise yourself you won't be so hasty in future.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Expect your workload to increase a lot over the next 24 hours. That may not sound like good news but at least it shows that important people trust you to get the job done.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem to others that you never lack confidence but that's not true and as the Sun moves through your opposite sign there will be times of self-doubt. Bite back — hard.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will get what you deserve today: no more and no less. Jupiter in your sign links with Saturn in a way that guarantees you get out of life in direct proportion to what you've put in. And you've put in a lot.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may have to do something that makes you unpopular today but that won't worry you. You know there are times when you have to put duty before pleasure and this is clearly one of them. Do it well.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Saturn may be casting a cloud over money matters but you can still have fun. Besides, if you keep a tight hold of the purse strings now you will have more to spend over the holiday period and party season.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't over-extend yourself at work or your energy may take a nose-dive early next week. Today's Jupiter-Saturn link will help you to persuade others to do things for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets you will do better, both financially and emotionally, if you open up and let friends and family members know how you feel and what it is you need.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why is it that people are so demanding? Most likely it's because they know you are too nice to say "no". At some stage today you need to get tough and let certain people know they have to do more.

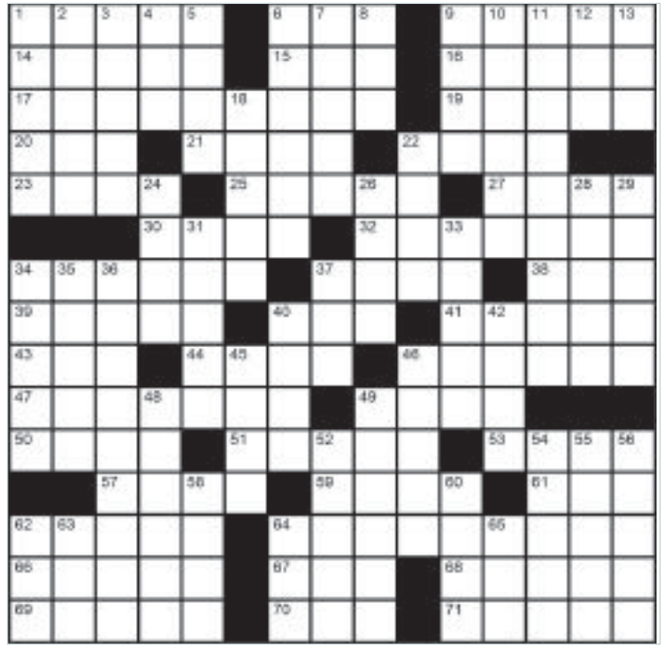
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your frustration may get the better of you and you will say or do something that gets you noticed for the wrong reason. At least others will be aware that you're not afraid to hit back at provocation.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Accept that you won't get things your way all the time, especially at work where some people seem to take a delight in being unreasonable. It's only a passing phase.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Jupiter and Saturn link across the most favourable angles of your chart today and the most likely outcome is that you will be rewarded for services you have done for others in the past. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

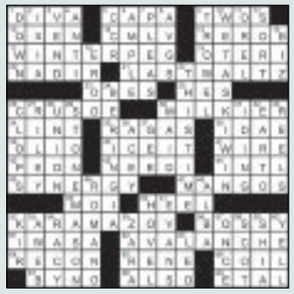
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of __" (2013)
6. Pea's packaging
9. Fearing-one's suffix
14. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jordan
15. "Do They Know It's Christmas?" co-songwriter Midge
16. Cad
17. Guy __, Cirque du Soleil founder
19. Articulate
20. 'Can' completer
21. Additional
22. Title for a Miss, in Spanish [abbr.]
23. D'Urbervilles heroine
25. Dog collar attachment
27. Man, in Milan
30. Ski lift
32. Hair-off-the-face styles: 2 wds.
34. "Brian's Song" (1971) role, Gale __
37. Insect stage
38. Bronze Roman money
39. Sidekick
40. Paper product
41. "Spider-Man" (2002) director Sam
43. Televise
44. "__ Flux" (2005)
46. President of France's residence, __ Palace
47. Wayne Gretzky team, e.g.: 2 wds.
49. Actress Jessica
50. Stamps spots, shortly
51. "The Sound of Music" (1965) role
53. Rhyming pattern
57. Doctrines
59. Small salmon
61. Kick __ _ fuss
62. Once in _ __ moon
64. BC city
66. "A Madea Christmas" (2013) star Mr. Perry
67. Li'l cartoon 'Devil'
68. Canonical hour
69. Moose, if done how Goose gets pluralized
70. 'Prop' suffix (Fuel)
71. Japan: Global Warming treaty city

Down
1. Water-balloon-to-ground sound
2. "Morning Express with Robin __" on HLN
3. Rand McNally product
4. William Tell's canton
5. Mr. Kaplan
6. Ship's accountant
7. "Coffee __ __?"
8. Billy __ Williams
9. Not singular [abbr.]
10. "The Bachelor" date site: 2 wds.
11. Region of Quebec near Ottawa
12. Mad Cow Disease letters
13. 'Ballad' suffix
18. Ms. Fitzgerald's
22. Store
24. British WWII submachine gun
26. __ earring
28. Boeotian Muse of memory
29. Actor Mr. Davis
31. Actor Mr. Cranston
33. "I speak French." = "Je __ francais."
34. Weighing need
35. 'Parliament' suffix
36. Stylish area of Toronto
37. Criticize
40. Model
42. The Clan of the Cave Bear heroine
45. Breakfast breakees
46. After __ (Mints)
48. Topics
49. Sculpture material
52. Body of water
54. "Thanks, __ __ thanks!"
55. "You're _ __ and don't even know it!"
56. Nova Scotia's Straight of __
58. Slight
60. Sty cry
62. 24 hr. banker
63. "Farewell."
64. School org.
65. Demure

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

1								9
			9		8			
	7	8	3		6	2	5	
	3			2			4	
6								5
	5			7			1	
	4	7	2		5	6	9	
			1		9			
2								8

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	5	4	8	1	7	2	9
2	9	8	6	5	7	4	1	3
7	4	1	9	2	3	6	5	8
1	3	4	5	9	8	2	7	6
8	2	9	7	1	4	3	8	5
5	8	7	2	3	6	9	4	1
9	7	3	8	4	5	1	6	2
4	5	2	1	6	9	8	3	7
6	1	6	3	7	2	5	9	4

Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: -25° MIN: -27°	MAX: -24° MIN: -26°	MAX: -21° MIN: -26°

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